

The 15th Annual

Honour Roll

- ♦ Barenaked Ladies
- ♦ Thomas and Christine Ichim
- ♦ Daniel Igali
- ♦ Lorie Kane
- ♦ Mike Lazaridis
- ♦ Bruce Mau
- ♦ Berna Moss
- ♦ Samantha Nutt
- ♦ Michael Ondaatje
- ♦ Hubert Reeves
- ♦ Mark Starowicz
- ♦ Ann Willcocks

Olympic gold-medallist
Daniel Igali



Editor

A very honourable company

One of the joys of the journalistic season at *Maclean's* is the preparation of the annual Honour Roll of Canadians who have made a difference. Dugging out from a dusty file of bygone politics, war and pretense, it is a decided relief to focus on people who strive for excellence and who inspire by their accomplishments. Their uplifting stories make you feel that, to borrow from the words of Tom Brady, "the rest is drama."

The special project, now in its 15th year, is one of the most popular news issues of the editorial calendar. Since the first in 1986, 200 people have graced the pages. Many need no introduction: Charles Boivin and Stephen Lewis (1986), Wayne Gretzky (80), Margaret Atwood (88), Nathrop Frye and Jean Vanier (98), Lorraine McKenna (96), Elvis Stojko (95). And this year, Olympic gold-medalist David Igls.

But the special charm of the exercise is the inclusion of people who work quietly in their own community or strived for their fellow citizens. Volunteer Tharua Stevenson, born as the impoverished Saultitan in Sault Ste. Marie, used \$25 of her own money and began a Club for Children program that has served tens of thousands of lunches to mostly kids at a centre in North Bagoa. When the United Nations pulled out of war-torn East Timor last year, leaving 15,000 terrified refugees in the hands of Vancouver's Cole Stevenson stayed behind to provide assistance and assistance. He was part of the growing army of Canadians achieving excellence in the world in various fields, a trend that has intensified with globalization.

Newsroom Notes

Celebrating Canada

The end of the year is traditionally marked by special *Maclean's* issues. This week, it is the annual *Maclean's* Honour Roll, which, in the case of 15 years, has become something of a Canadian institution. The honours over the years—writers, artists, astronauts, entrepreneurs, caretakers, scientists, community workers and athletes like this year's cover subject,

Many of the individuals have helped to bring change to Canadian institutions. Maj. Dar Beaujeu, a jet pilot, courageously stepped forward in 1998 with her personal account of *Abduled* of her rape by a colleague in the military and a pattern of sexual abuse and harassment. The resulting discipline and reforms helped to make the Canadian military a better place for women to seek their careers.

One of the most moving events in the annals of the Honour Roll media was a private dinner former Publisher Brian Segal and I were to Halifax in April, 1994, for a special presentation to Janet and Randy Cormier. He was too ill to travel when he accepted his award and would die later that summer of complications from AIDS. Randy Cormier was a hemophiliac who had been diagnosed in 1986 as HIV-positive from tainted blood transfusions. Janet learned she was also infected. *Abduled* honoured them for their successful fight to establish the first provincial financial compensation for hemophiliacs infected with HIV. After Randy's death, Janet continued the struggle, becoming a force for reform in the tainted blood scandal, and earlier this year speaking on national radio about her health challenges and her determination to carry on. Such personal honour is the true mark of all members of the Honour Roll.

Robert Lewis

robert.lewis@maclean's.ca to comment on From the Editor



editor," says the supervising editor, Michael Benedek, the magazine's editorial director of new ventures.

Next week will bring the annual year-end double issue featuring the *Maclean's* poll on Canadian attitudes, conducted this year in collaboration with the Global Television Network—plus a review of the events that have shaped *Maclean's* quarterly at a news conference and *Insight 2000*, a 17-page gallery of the year's best photos. "It's been an especially rich year for pictures," says Associate Managing Editor Benson Woodward, who directed the project.

**LATITUDE
LONGITUDE**

NAUTICA

A NEW ADVENTURE IN FRAGRANCE



Christians arrogant or bony curmudgeons?

Election results

Canadians have spoken. Let the East govern the East, and the West govern the West ("Majority rules," Cover, Dec. 4). If Prime Minister Jean Chrétien wants to waste another dough, fine. But we don't want him spending our western tax money to fiscally. The participating business with executives and church westerners are different; it's time to start thinking about a new federal Sovereignty-association option!

Greg Natale, Dartmouth, N.S.

Your election coverage (and poll after poll after poll). Once upon a time, politicians stood up and told us what

they believed. Polls now allow them to tell us what they think we want to hear. Former U.S. president Harry S. Truman got it right when he said: "How far would Moses have gone if he had taken a poll in Egypt?" What would Jesus Christ have preached if he had taken a poll in the land of Israel? What would have happened in the Reformation if Martin Luther had taken a poll? It's not polls or public opinion of the masses that counts. It's right and wrong and leadership. "Where have all the leaders gone?"

John Rodgers, Thornton Bay, Ont.

In one way it is probably a good thing that Jean Chrétien was still leading the Liberals in this election because, if he had resigned and Paul Martin had been leading the party, it is likely that the Liberals would have swept the whole country.

L-E. John, Rockwood, Ont.

I think it is time you chose out that "bust" (Peter C. Newman, who is as out of touch with political realities as he is with literary ones). In "Throwing the recall" (Dec. 4), he fails to see that this federal election was indeed a defining one of great importance for our country and the future of our political parties. Canadians do not want an Americanized health-care system, or an American system of referendums and pressure-group politics that undoes

our tradition of representative government. They do not want a rule by tyrant or by pseudo-Chekhovian bogot on issues such as abortion and the death penalty, or a tax system that favours the rich and erodes the future of our economy and society to the tragic detriment of big business. Canadians did not just vote for their local candidates (as Newman says). From coast to coast, they backed the government as the best political option. Canadians voted for a centre party with a balanced program of health, welfare and tax measures. Until the opposition can put together a similar program, it will never gain power in Ottawa.

George Monks, Toronto

No wonder Jean Chrétien is erratic. The man is history incarnate. A national treasure. While Anthony Wilson

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor are welcome. Please keep them brief. Address them to: Letters to the Editor, Maclean's Magazine, 1717 Bay St., Toronto, Ont. M5S 1H7. (416) 969-7120. Letters are read and published at the discretion of the editor. Personal attacks and libelous or defamatory comments will not be accepted.

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Culture on the brink

I wrote when I read "Crisis at the North" (Letter from Sheshatshiu, Dec. 4): What the article hasn't said is this, because these children are the products of alcoholic parents, they are most likely suffering from fetal alcohol syndrome. They are permanently and seriously brain-damaged. Add to that the fact that they are rats including rats specifically, but all day, every day. The only glimmer of hope I see is from Paul Rich, the band chief, who had the courage to be honest about the situation and beg for the government to take his children away. He should be given the support he needs to give his people a purpose, a sense of belonging, so that they can start rebuilding a culture on the very break of extinction.

Shawn Horwitz, Fort St. James, B.C.

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Over and Under Achievers

Let's play, Super Mario!

Snowgoons: *The last, best call!* Laurent Fleury: *This a cover (resigned) until? Super Mario puts a cold foot on cold ball? The Queen Mum stands tall? And the economy is that all?*

◆ **Seagrams Co.:** Down the hatch for a Canadian animation in French firm completes takeover. Rye whisky will never taste the same, eh? *Never?*

◆ **Alouette Yachting:** Ottawa Sets drop lawsuit against no-longer-wayward star after he agrees to make donation to kids' hospital. So brother & smooch' the dishes! Yahan will soon be out of fashion.

◆ **Maria Lemieux:** His planned comeback means we'll soon find out if intensive golf sessions really are good training for an NHL career. The league sure hopes so.

◆ **The Royals:** The British government asks them to plan their own funerals—and the Queen Mum is reportedly keenest for sure. She expects Prince Harry's great-grandchildren to give her a fitting.

Better than the U.S. Uh, not really.

By at least one statistical measure, at least for Canadians to stop bemoaning about how much more civic-minded they are than Americans. Since last month's presidential contest, there's been no shortage of mocking remarks on our side of the border about the Americans' low voter participation rate—51 per cent. In Canada, by contrast, voter participation rate of 75 per cent were the norm in federal elections for most of

the postwar period until they began to fall off in the 1990s. And the Nov. 27 election that gave Jean Charest a third consecutive majority returned 63 per cent of Canadians aged 18 to 64 to the polls, a significantly higher number than in the United States.

But if Canadian participation rate is calculated in the same manner as in the States, our two elections look markedly similar. For one, 12.8 million Canadians cast ballots on Nov. 27 out of about 20.6 million (the final number is not yet final) eligible voters. But as a percentage of adult

Canadians eligible to vote—which corresponds to how the Americans do the calculation—the participation rate stands at 54.7 per cent, according to Richard Johnston, a political science professor at the University of British Columbia, who recently authored a paper related to the subject. So the real difference between Canada and U.S. participation rates is 54 per cent versus 51 per cent. "We're not much better than the Americans," says Johnston. The devil is in the details—or perhaps, according to some, lurking in the ballot box.

Jillian Behrman



Lemieux: likes being an owner so much he plays for himself

◆ **Wealthy pessimists:** Alan Greenspan feels gloomy about the economy as the stock market goes up. Now, here's a bumper of a day. Gordon Thissen

◆ **Lucien Bouchard:** Becomes a unifying figure for all Canadians, he's vilified in English Canada for being too separatist, and now in his home province for not being enough of one.

Overture

PASSAGES

Returning: After a three-year hiatus, Pittsburgh Penguins owner Mario Lemieux, 35, will once again don skates and a jersey and return NHL playing ranks. His return is expected to boost ticket sales for the financially strapped team and help bolster efforts to build a new arena. Lemieux, who will become the first owner to live up the clause, inserted after the 1997 season due to back problems, the six-time scoring champion and Hall of Famer was also forced to take time off in 1996—he had been diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease three years earlier. He has since fully recovered from the cancer. As well, his chronic back problems have significantly diminished. Unlike other sport legends, there are no rules in the NHL stating that owners cannot play—Lemieux owns 16.6 per cent of the Penguins. He began working out his search in anticipation of his return, and plans to play in his first game in late December or early January.

Honoured: Longtime CBC news anchor Knowledge Nasir, 73, will serve as a torch-bearer to a new generation of journalists through the creation of a \$25,000 annual award in his name. The creation of the Knowledge Nasir Prize was announced by the Canadian Journalism Foundation, which held a \$300-a-plate fund-raising dinner honouring Nasir last week. Veteran CBC producer Mark Stanwick will lead a jury of journalists and others to assess applicants.

Resigned: After a tumultuous tumultuous saga in which she was nonetheless credited with running around Canadian public broadcast and telecommunications policy, Francoise Bernier is leaving her post as chairwoman of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission. The 52-year-old Bernier took over the job in 1996 from Ruth Speer; some sources suggested the

her efforts to be nominated for a second five-year term were rejected by the Prime Minister's Office. Bernier will begin working for Montreal-based Sante Consulting after leaving the CRTC on Feb. 15.

Died: After fleeing Germany with his father in the 1930s, Jewish-born Werner Klemperer went on to television fame as Col. Klink, the amiable but doltish German camp-commander overseeing a Second World War prison camp in the comedy series *Hogan's Heroes*. Strangely enough, Klemperer and he wanted to portray Klink in a bad light. "I told the writers that if they ever made Colonel Klink the hero of the show, I would quit," he once said. Klemperer won two Emmy awards for the role. He also appeared as a narrator with every major symphony in the United States. He died of cancer at 80, in his New York home.

Died: In 1950, American poet Gwendolyn Brooks became the first Black writer to win a Pulitzer Prize. After publishing her first poem when she was 13, Brooks wrote over 20 books. Most of her work depicts the lives of Black Americans as they struggled for equality in the 20th century. Her first published anthology, *A Street in Bronzeville*, was granted with critical acclaim when it was released in 1945. Brooks, 83, died of cancer in Chicago.

Missing: The U.S. Coast Guard's four-day search for Scott Smith, bassist for the Canadian rock band Lowkey, was called off. The 45-year-old Vancouverite was sailing from Vancouver to Los Angeles when he fell out of his 37-foot sailboat off the coast of California near San Francisco and is presumed dead. The band is best known for such Eighties classics as *Temporary Love* and *The Kid Is Not Tonight*.

Settled: The Ottawa Senators have dropped their \$1.4-million suit against star centre Alexei Yashin, 27. In return, Yashin will make a sizable donation to Ottawa's Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. Yashin, who sat out the 1999-2000 season, was sued by the team for damages for withholding his services while under contract.



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Over to You



Dennis York

From hair to eternity

Let's talk about hair for a moment. Not the "good hair/bad hair" business, but the "this-is-what-I'm-all-about" stuff. Hair worn as a badge—meaning hair that people show off, spike up, or point, and color screaming—meaning so that they can put it out there in your face. Apparently not much has changed since I grew my hair long and rugged in the '60s. It rarely looks different these days—some would say better—but hair is still used to make statements, just as it was in my day.

My father's job took us to the United States during the '60s, and being in high school there meant experiencing the rebellion of the times—the opposition to the Vietnam War and the military draft, and the questioning of other values as well. I had high school friends who felt they were immune to being drafted because they were going to college. We now know that meant a disapparitione member of the poor and less fortunate would be fighting the war for us. One more thing in disapparition of: Some of us grew our hair as a symbol of our free left, and some just did so because all the cool people were doing that.

I was back in Canada and into my second year of university before I decided to let my hair go long, as it would grow. I wanted to look because as young people were growing their hair long—and I couldn't see how conforming to another group membership would improve things any. Besides, I didn't do drugs and wasn't pricing myself low. If I wore the symbol of the drug culture, I would be judged accordingly and lumped in with the rest. But by the same token, if I remained a clean-cut college kid, I would be judged by those standards. I realized my choice and grew my hair, then my beard.

The first thing that happened when I did so reinforced my decision—a person I disapproved of didn't like my new look. That's what I mean when I say that when I did so reinforced my decision—it's a person I disapproved of didn't like my new look.

That became a reason for keeping it—even if, in retrospect, her opinion was probably valid (it did look unkempt). Then, I started to notice more strangers making friendly conversation with me. It apparently made me more approachable. It also made people expect me to hold certain attitudes and beliefs.

I didn't fit all that were along with this new image, since few people fit into stereotypes. But I was coming closer to representing who I was—or so I thought. It had to do with the fact of things without getting into other people's heads. Again, I didn't do drugs and wasn't pricing myself low. If I wore the symbol of the drug culture, I would be judged accordingly, but not for being a cool person. That was the point of the badge.

Things changed over time, of course, and my badge eventually didn't seem appropriate. There came to be fewer hippies, and babies adopted the long, scraggly hair. Many of my friends cut their hair to get jobs. Some felt they had to be on the "inside" of the system to have a say in how things would be. Others just wanted to make some money and their families. I could have been stubborn and kept the hair, but no one was going to tell me what to do. I cut my hair and shave my beard off if and when I felt like it.

Heck, I might even look for a cool job. I thought then something like watching. So now I look and see some of my college students with, well, unconventional hairstyles. I wonder what they're trying to say and I wonder what they think of my short hair and nicely pressed slacks. Do they ever think that they may be reacting to me, 30 years hence?

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Anthony Wilson-Smith

There's no laugh like it

When he contemplated his pending 40th birthday last fall, Garser Bernstein didn't mess around. He called up four couples who are friends of his and his wife, Jana, and asked if they could take time off from their everyday lives sometime soon. Then he booked and paid for 10 business-class round-trippers between his home base in Montreal and Greece. There, the five couples proceeded to a yacht. Bonanomi joined, with crew, and spent a week sailing the Aegean Sea. The experience was, says his friend and business partner Andy Nulman, "so weird you read about in books or see in movies, but never expect to experience yourself."

Actually, Bonanomi's 40th birthday was in January—but he's always ahead of the curve. The most obvious example: three days ago Arthouse Technologies, the wireless entertainment content provider that he and Nulman first formed thinking about more than a year ago. If you have a cell phone or wireless device offered by any of Canada's major service providers—such as Bell Mobility, Rogers AT&T, Fido or Quebecor—you may be familiar with The Funnies, their humour entertainment channel that, for a fee, delivers daily rounds of jokes to subscribers. By the second half of 2001, Arthouse will be offering new channels with topics ranging from short serialized fiction to interactive games. They have a distribution deal with Sprint in the United States, and expect to put deals in place over the next 18 months in Europe and Latin America. Last month, Marconi gunnolator Charles Seznec brought in his holding company, Telestream Ltd., as a partner. Soon, they expect to close the last deal, leaving the \$75-million target in startup funding that they set for themselves a year ago. That's not to say to Dean MacDonald, the Newfoundland-based cable entrepreneur who gave them their first seed money of \$1.5 million—a stretch after the tech bustdown in the stock market last spring. MacDonald revised after what he cheerfully describes as "the shoo-shoo, most superficial exercise of due diligence ever." More seriously, he says: "You gotta be a great idea, and great people, and you don't care about the numbers."

Well-spoken, prepossessing, calm, and deceptively low-key, Bonanomi has a track record of getting people's trust in short order—and making them very glad over the longer run that he did. He got himself through CEGEP by selling vacuum cleaners—and made enough extra money to pay for his first new car and take a trip to Europe. After a commerce degree from McGill University, he spent eight years as director of operations for a real estate management firm. When the Montreal real estate scene turned ugly in pre-endorsements 1994, he began mulling a career change. A friendly father, Norman Spector, who operated a heating-oil business in Montreal

told Bonanomi to "find a business and IT [be] key." So Bonanomi, who had learned computer programming in university, went to a tech show in California to hunt for ideas.

By his estimate, he had decided to start a company that would provide business breakup and advice—just as one of the Web was taking off. His company, Generation Net, was a hit with consumers from the start—although it almost went bankrupt at the end of its first year when its user base expanded faster than expected. "You make your money in advising others, not in creating them," says Bernstein. With losses averaging \$20,000 a month, Generation Net was down to 100 FTEs, 600,000 and, Bonanomi recalls, he was "walking up every morning at 5 o'clock in a cold sweat." Spector again came to the rescue. He told Bernstein that if he found some funding elsewhere, he would provide more money. After the Banque Développement du Québec offered a loan, Spector invested \$250,000. The company began turning a profit—and required operations by offering Web services aimed at business. But when telecommunications giants like BCE began providing Internet service, Bonanomi figured the field was becoming too crowded. So when a symbote put together by Yodanik Software made an offer, he sold out for \$1.1 million in mid-1999—and packed up almost half that himself, while agreeing to remain as CEO of the new firm.

That left Bernstein a newly minted millionaire—but suddenly. About that time, through mutual friends, he met Nulman, a relentlessly energetic whiteboard who was becoming wacky after 15 years running Montréal Just for Laughs Comedy Festival. They became fast friends—so much so that from the start, they were sharing or financing each other's interests. Bonanomi persuaded Nulman to quit his job and join him on a start-up venture, advising companies how to make Web sites more user-friendly. One problem: his company's new owners didn't want to move to that direction. So Bonanomi put down \$200,000 of his own money—enough to carry through the plan he and Nulman made for the next two years—and quit his old firm to chase new ideas.

These days, it's hard to visit Montreal or Toronto without hearing some mention of one or both of the funnyduo partners: they're active in charities and community affairs, and the never-ending comic off between them—with Bonanomi playing straight man against Nulman's Seinfeld-esque observations—makes them a favorite on the social circuit. "The dung Andy done for me," says Bonanomi, "is that I wake up in the morning and can't wait to go to work." That good humor is infectious. "I see these guys together, and they just make me want to laugh," says their investor MacDonald. All the way, they hope, to the bank.

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Megacity Madness

The Parti Québécois's plan for municipal mergers has ignited a political firestorm in Montreal

By Brenda Brannenell in Montreal

Gisèle Bousardieu's anger is no secret on her quiet Westmount street. Placards lean against her brick house. Protest signs dot the lawn. But the most telling testimony is parked in the driveway. Her sports utility vehicle is covered with signs and stickers. Some sport the slogan "We marcheront" ("We march on"), and all are directed at Bill 170, the Quebec legislation that will transform Montreal into a megacity by merging it with the suburbs that share the island. Eight of the existing 28 municipalities are set to disappear. The rest, including the tiny enclave of Westmount, will become 36 consolidated boroughs with no taxing powers. Bousardieu, who runs 55 this week, cannot stomach the loss of her community as she knows it. The sign on top of her SUV heralds a protest rally planned for Dec. 10. "I don't go unnoticed," she admits with a laugh. "My son is completely ashamed of me—he doesn't want to let me out. But, she adds, "what makes me ashamed is to feel obliged to do this for democracy."

Thousands of others share her outrage. They accuse the Parti Québécois of trying to turn the legislature through the

National Assembly before Christmas without proper consultation. Some English-speaking Quebecers suspect darker motives, since many of the municipalities being lost are heavily anglophone. But the PQ insists its goal is to strengthen the city economically. Montreal will become the largest Canadian megacity—other urban areas such as Toronto and Halifax have already gone that route. Bill 170 also proposes the creation of four other megacities in the province: Longueuil, Quebec City, Lévis and Hull-Gatineau.

But by camping with the level of government closest to citizens, the PQ has waded into contentious territory. Five Montreal-area residents sought a court injunction last week against the bill on the grounds that certain votes were not properly consulted. And a downtown rally scheduled for Sunday was expected to attract thousands of protesters. Amid the growing controversy, Montreal Mayor Pierre Bourque, an advocate of the mergers, launched his own offensive, urging people to sign a pro-merger petition. "It's our collective future that is at stake," he insisted.

When the merged city comes into effect in January 2002, Montreal's population will soar from 1 million to 1.8 million—but the number of councillors will plummet from 256 to 28 municipalities to 71 in the megacity. The PQ argues the reform is needed to unify Montreal so it can compete more effectively for business with other cities, and the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal agrees. With about 39 industrial parks, the island's municipalities have comprised for business for years, says board spokesman Pierre Létourneau. "There is a big waste of energy," he says, "and a big competition amongst ourselves." Another problem, Bourque concedes, is a lack of equity: other municipalities do not pay their full share for benefits from the metropolis. "We must work together to regenerate, reinforce the economy and



An anti-merger rally in November; Bousardieu (opposite) considers that a sense of community will be sacrificed.

the development of the island," Bourque told Maclean's.

Peter Tress, 60, none of it. The strident mayor of Westmount is one of the most vocalized opponents of the plan. He calls "irrational." If the bill passes, Westmount plans to launch a court challenge; like others, Tress contends that helping out Montreal financially does not require a merger, which he argues will bring no good to Westmount. "We're going to a major whereby loss," Tress told his residents last week. "And there's no way to make it better." And there's no way to make it better, he adds incredulously. "We're going to disappear." In fact, many shudder at the prospect of joining Montreal for one compelling reason: they are in a poorly run city, and point to Montreal's evident woes as another potential source of trouble. In referendum last month on some municipalities, voters initially rejected the merger (in Westmount, 98 per cent opposed the plan). But the PQ vowed it would not be swayed by referendum results, which can't consider future hypotheticals on the part of a sovereign entity committed to putting the future of Quebec into a vote.

The merges will especially worry anglophones. The 14 bilingual municipalities on the island of Montreal will be

an amalgamated entity now brought. Although they will retain their linguistic status, anglophones will worry they are losing another institution, says Ed Marin, a spokesman for Alliance Québec. The English-English lobby group believes the PQ's main motive was to eliminate bilingual Montreal-area municipalities that previously passed partition resolutions to remain in Canada in the event of a yes vote for sovereignty. Others, including Tress, see the disappearance of anglophone municipalities as "a flagrant hypocrisy" for the PQ, which they claim is using the merges to set the stage for downgrading responsibilities in Montreal in the future.

Premier Lucien Bouchard has cast the municipal reform as one of the PQ's most important initiatives. But he may pay a political price—not only anglophones are upset. Bousardieu, for one, no longer considers herself a Quebec "Bourgeoisie"; for her, it's home, a place with a close-knit atmosphere and a network of volunteers who care about the community. "I'll call the mayor. I can call him home at night," she says. "He's in the phone book. That's what we'll be living." For many merger opponents, the prospect of one enormous city has already brought on a mega-headache. ■





Canada History

Mystery riot

By Sue Ferguson

Accidental. That's how military records describe the March 3, 1919, deaths of William Tawsevich, Joseph Young, William Hance, Jack Hickman and David Galtas. These First World War Canadian soldiers all died in Wales, miles away from the Allied front—and four months after the war ended. They died in a military training camp called Kinsel Park, where they were among thousands of veterans awaiting ships back to Canada. Despite press from family members, the Canadian army has never revealed the full circumstances of these five fatal "accidents." In fact, critics charge, it even failed to thoroughly investigate the deaths that occurred in what the official military record calls the country's "most senior" pioneer unit.

On March 4, 1919, soldiers from the camp's eastern Ontario division, fatigued with the delays in returning home, sparked the riot by looting their dry-food depot. For two days, up to 800 uniforms were requisitioned, cameras, YMCA buildings, quartermaster's stores and officers' messes, piling their contents. While many men were drunk, most were "sobies" intent on having their demands met: inmate Julian Pudzawski, London Guildhall University lecturer and historical consultant to a new documentary, *Kinsel Park Riot* (to be broadcast on Dec. 20 on History television).

The Kinsel Park uprising was just one in a string of peasant protests as demobilized soldiers waited—some up to 15 months—while governments and shipping agents negotiated transportation arrangements, and endured overcrowding, poor food, delays in pay and considerable boredom. But the greatest tragedy occurred at Kinsel Park, the final stop for those

The aftermath: Kinsel Park was the scene of a riot in Canadian military history

scheduled to embark in Liverpool, 50 km away.

By the end of February, 1919, demobilization of the 19,000 troops stationed there had slowed to a trickle as camp commander Col. Malcolm Colquhoun announced one shipping delay after another. Then, news spread that the next unit scheduled to return was the 3rd Canadian Division, many of whom were recent draftees. This enraged the waiting men, especially those who had volunteered early in the war and believed in the popular "You owe, I'm home" principle. One of them was Gordon Boyd, who told *Maclean's* before he died on Oct. 13 at age 101: "We were on parade and word passed around—there was a riot. So we just broke."

Initial attempts to re-establish order met with little success. Some officers organized squads to defend their divisions, but non-voting soldiers, who had little sympathy for the officers and were unwilling to risk injury, were reluctant to help out. Although Colquhoun forbade the use of ammunition, one major managed to secure 1,000 rounds. The first fatality, 30-year-old Sapper William Tawsevich, suffered a bayonet through the stomach. Capt. Joseph Young, 36, fell next, also from bayonet wounds. William Hance, a 22-year-old signaller from Talbot, Ala., was shot in the face, and Gunner Jack Hickman, 21, of Deschambault, N.B., took a bullet in the chest.

But the most controversial "accident" involved Pte. David Galtas, a 20-year-old Cape Bretoner, who defended the camp in the final confrontation. According to the autopsy report and one officer's testimony at the Canadian court of inquiry that followed within days, Galtas was shot in the back of the neck while advancing towards the rioters, raising the likelihood that one of his fellow camp defenders killed him. But the military judges declared in Liverpool chose not to pursue the matter.

Kinsel Park Riot, a Welsh-Canadian co-production, records the Galtas family's frantic attempts to determine who was responsible for the fatality. "The family never heard about David's death," says Galtas' grandson Stewart in the documentary. "There was no telegram, no acknowledgement to the day name than 80 years later about how David died." British historian Piotrowski, consulted by the Galtases in the mid-1990s, believes the inquiry's failure in this regard is no greater miscarriage of justice. "If David wasn't a rioter, then who shot him and why wasn't any of the rioters prosecuted for murder?" asks Piotrowski.

Historians agree that it would have been impossible for the rioters to have been influenced by the 1917 Russian Revolution and the rise of civil and military strikes that preceded the war's end. But Canadian historian Desmond Morton also places much of the responsibility on non-commissioned officers (NCOs). Park's managerial nature, he says, meant that "officers had no command, no connection to the soldiers," and they did not, as a result, "take all vigorous steps to suppress the rioting." A similar lack of rigour is evident in the army's efforts to understand how young men died that day. ■

Why did five Canadian soldiers die while waiting to return home?

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The search for plundered art

The National Gallery of Canada and the Art Gallery of Ontario announced they have works in their collection that may have been plundered by the Nazis. The National Gallery has 100 works whose ownership during the time of the Nazis is unclear, while the AGO has 80. Both institutions said they will post the suspect works on the Internet, as other galleries and museums around the world have done.

Off the streets

Quebec's crackdown against biker gangs continued with the arrests of two leaders of the Rock Machine, Marcel Denner and Frédéric Faucher, and 13 other gang members in a sweeping drug investigation. Earlier this year, Maïssa (Moud) Bouchet, the leader of the Hell's Angels in Quebec—with whom the Rock Machine has waged a bloody six-year turf battle—was also arrested. Quebec has rapped up 15 biker squads; the gangs' Sept. 13 shooting of journalist Michel Auger, who often wrote about biker,

Fire hazards

The Canadian Transportation Safety Board issued safety recommendations for dealing with in-flight fires, summing up an investigation of the 1998 crash of Swissair Flight 111 off the coast of Nova Scotia. Although investigators have not pinpointed the cause of the crash, it is clear that a blue flame out of the doomed plane's auxiliary power unit was held as soon as possible where smoke detector and fire extinguishing equipment

Talks cool down

Three days of talks in Ottawa to negotiate an international deal to fight global warming ended with little progress. In 1997, the international community agreed in principle to reducing greenhouse gases at a meeting in Kyoto, Japan. But Canada and the United States were a difficult agreement that would, among other things, allow countries to claim or trade so-called emission credits—redits, for example, because of forests that absorb carbon dioxide. The European Union wants strict caps imposed domestically



Winter vigils for 14 lives cut short

Memories in Ottawa and other cities remembered the 14 women assassinated by Marc Lepine in 1989 at Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique. But controversy erupted as Charles Ruckoff, a University of Toronto professor, campaigned the membranes to *Re Kutz*, Klan propaganda in an e-mail attacking radical feminists. The university did not discipline Ruckoff because of its tradition of free speech.

Ripples from the federal election

The fallout continued as members of the Canadian Alliance, the NDP and the Conservative party took stock of the federal Liberal's strong Nov. 27 election victory. Contrary to the hard line he has always advocated to, Joe Clark, whose Tories won the minimum 12 seats no state party needs, and any merger with the Alliance, a long-discussed possibility, would have to be "on our terms"—in effect, a reverse takeover by the Conservatives.

Spending in Clark in his first post-election address as a Winnipeg fluid minor. Instead, he assailed the "terrible and corrupt" Liberals, while taking some of the blame for the Alliance's lackluster performance in winning 66 seats—only 10 more than in 1997.

As for Alexa McDonough, she said she was committed to staying on as NDP leader, at least until the party's convention in the fall of 2000. Then after the NDP's poor showing—it fell to 13 seats from 21—some sources have been calling for McDonough to step down and for the party to abandon the mid-size centre-left chart and return to its leftist roots.

A call to save the children

According to "Sacred Lives," a 97-page report sponsored by Save the Children, thousands of native children and teens are working in the sex trade and make up a disproportionately number of prostitutes in places such as Winnipeg—so much as 30 per cent. The aboriginal author of the report, Melanie Mark, 24, and Cherry Skagley, 30, who was herself a prostitute, said children must maintain their culture. The report calls for a national strategy to address the problem.

Seesaw Politics

The surprises kept coming in the ongoing presidential battle between Al Gore and George W. Bush

By Andrew Phillips in Washington

Al Gore's political obtainments were already written. Virtuous as his own party were, having that was time for him to do the difficult thing and concede defeat. Sage analysis of the competing George W. Bush administration were taking shape. Republicans in the Texas government capital, Austin, were gearing up for a long-delayed victory rally. Such a fate in Gore, he's close.

Then, in a post-election saga that has been matched only by an unpredictability, yet as other unforeseen event. Once, he's back against the wall, was handed a Houdini-like escape from fiscal legal deficit in his quest for the U.S. presidency. It came from the Florida Supreme Court, which by a bare majority of four votes out of seven reversed a lower court decision and ordered an immediate manual recount of tens of thousands of disputed ballots. Suddenly, Gore had a shot at recovering. Florida may lead in the race and clinching its 25 electoral votes—enough to give him the White House.

But not for long. Less than 23 hours later, the U.S. Supreme Court stepped in and turned the tide once more—ordering a halt to the recount and scheduling a full hearing on the issue for Monday, Dec. 11. It was an ominous move for Gore. By five votes to four, the federal high-court upheld clear rules about the standards of what the Florida court had decided. If it follows that logic, the week it could finally crush the vice-president's hopes and bring an end to the longest-ever presidential election.

What the Florida court ordered was the same thing that Gore camp had been seeking for months—a manual count of disputed ballots that a clearly believes will tip the election to the vice-president. That got under way the morning after the court's ruling, as nine judges in Florida's capital, Tallahassee, began painstakingly examining 9,869 punch-card ballots. What



Now a domestic
policy decision

from Miami-Dade county. They were examining so-called undervotes—ballots that are otherwise valid but did not register a vote for president in previous machine counts. Across the state, another 35,000 undervotes were also to be examined by hand. The margin Gore needed to overcome was wider than ever. The Florida court also ordered that an extra 383 votes for Gore be included in the state's official vote count—cutting that lead to just 154 out of six million cast.

The post-election legal fight in Florida had already risked personal feelings and cast a shadow over the political legitimacy of whoever eventually succeeds Bill Clinton in the White House. But the message from politicians on both sides has been: war you will soon see modern day Republicans, convinced that day had successfully held off Gore's dogged legal challenges and countering on a new Bush presidency, reacted with outrage as the ruling from the Florida high court, long seen by conservatives as a partner, active body dominated by Democratic appointees. Tom DeLay, majority whip in the House of Representatives and an uncompromising Republican right-



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Bush with communications director
Karen Hughes, legal maneuver

The outcome of the election may finally hinge on a U.S. Supreme Court hearing

widget descended the Florida court. "This judicial suggestion makes no sense."

The result: 31 days after Americans were to the polls (today through) elect their 43rd president, the stage was set for increasinglyencyclomatic reversion—unless the Federal Supreme Court ends Gore's chance this week. Deadlines are fast approaching, starting early this week. States must name their electors of the electoral college by Tuesday, Dec. 12, or they are subject to challenge by the U.S. Congress. As a result, Florida's Republican-dominated legislature planned to meet this week in an unprecedented special session to name its own slate of electors if the outcome in the state is still unclear. If the manual recount resumes and Gore pulls ahead, that could lead to what Washington politicians have dubbed the "nuclear scenario"—competing slates of electors from Florida, one pledged to Bush, another to Gore.

When electors meet on Dec. 18 to cast their votes for president, there could be two conflicting tallies. And so the presidential election could remain up in the air for weeks to come—and eventually have to be settled by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives in Washington. They are to meet on Jan. 6 and officially count the electoral votes. If there is a disputed result from one state, both bodies would have to vote on which result to accept. The House has a narrow Republican majority and would back Bush's electors, but the Senate will be divided 50-50 and a tie there would, in principle, be broken by Gore himself in his capacity as president of the Senate. A deadlock between the two branches of Congress

might then have to be broken by the U.S. Supreme Court—but only after more weeks of bitter feuding and just days before the new president is scheduled to be sworn in on Jan. 20.

That's all a long way off—but it went instantly from speculation to real possibility as soon as Florida's Supreme Court announced its verdict. The court had already played a controversial role in the ongoing drama: in an earlier ruling on Nov. 21, it tilted towards Gore by extending a deadline for manual recounts of some ballots. But the judgment of its majority last Friday went much further. It ordered a manual recount of the 9,000 "undervotes" from Miami-Dade county. The Gore camp contends that a careful examination of those ballots will show that many voters did intend to cast a vote in the presidential contest but failed to completely punch through the part of the card set aside for the presidential vote. Analysts by independent observers have concluded that Democrats are more likely than Republicans to fail to punch the card cleanly (seriously, for example, are disproportionately Democratic), suggesting that a manual count might well tip the balance towards Gore.

But the Florida court gave little guidance on the biggest contentiousity of the entire post-election saga: what exactly constitutes a vote? The court's majority said that votes should be counted when "the clear indication of the intent of the voter" can be determined. But earlier recount efforts in several Florida counties led to a welter of conflicting standards. For example, should ballots with so-called dangle or dimpled chads be counted? Local election boards wrangled with those rules for days—and the new statewide measure seemed headed for the same kind of dispute.

Not surprisingly, Bush's camp moved immediately to stop the recount. His lawyers went to the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, successfully winning the emergency order to stop the new recount. And they emphasized the stark division within the Florida high court itself. Its chief justice, Charles Wells, found himself in the minority, strongly opposing the four judges who ordered the counts and warning of dire consequences ahead. The majority's judgment, Wells wrote ominously, "pivots this country and this state into an unprecedented and unnecessary constitutional crisis."

Can will be in the odds. Bush's lawyers could persuade the U.S. Supreme Court to overrule the Florida court whenever, even if that doesn't happen. Bush has several backstops in his fight for the presidency—including Florida's Republican-dominated legislature and his own brother, Jeb, who as governor could have a deciding voice in which electors speak for Florida's voters. But the federal Supreme Court's action in stopping the recount suggested that things might not go that far after all. ■

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Cheques and balances

The impeachment trial of President Joseph Estrada of the Philippines began with prosecution introducing as evidence a \$4.5 million cheque they said helped finance the purchase of an estate for one of Estrada's numerous. The cheque, which prosecutors claimed Estrada signed with the fictitious name Jose Valada, was deposited to the account of one of the president's cronies. Estrada has been accused of taking millions in bribes.

Convicted of espionage

Washington reacted angrily to the conviction of U.S. businessman Teddor Pipe on espionage charges in Russia. Pipe and an associate had purchased technical information on a Russian radar-propelled missile from a Russian professor. Lasting 18 months, Pipe said, that no classified information he part of the package. Russian President Vladimir Putin indicated that he would pardon Pipe.

A doctor gives his life

The Ebola virus continued to claim lives in Uganda with the death of Dr. Mathieu Lakwena, one of the leaders of the fight against the deadly disease. Lakwena first exhibited symptoms of Ebola on Nov. 30, and died on Dec. 12. He had been medical superintendent at St. Mary's Hospital in Lira, in the northern part of Uganda, where the epidemic has been raging. It has so far claimed 156 lives.

Taking aim at the Taliban

Russia and the United States joined to demand harsher United Nations sanctions against Afghanistan's Taliban government. Under the joint proposal, the Security Council would impose an arms embargo and other sanctions against Afghanistan for a year. The goal is to force the country to close terrorist training camps and hand over Osama bin Laden, the alleged terrorist who is suspected of masterminding the August, 1998, bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania and who is believed to be hiding in Afghanistan. The Taliban and more vicious will only hurt ordinary people in the impoverished country, which is already under an air embargo.

World Notes

Days of rage and uncertainty

In a surprise announcement, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak said he would resign and seek re-election in a vote to be held in 60 days. Barak, whose ruling coalition fell apart earlier this year over the issue of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, had the needed majority to negotiate an agreement with Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat. Observers said that Barak's sudden resignation also appeared, in part, to be an attempt to undermine former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who wants to return to office and beats Barak in opinion polls. But Netanyahu does not hold a seat in the Knesset, and prime ministerial candidates must be voting members of parliament.

Since peace negotiations broke off in July after the unsuccessful Camp David summit between Barak and Arafat, violence between Israelis and Palestinians has intensified. Last week Arafat appeared in public wearing a bullet-proof vest, while one of his bodyguards called for new "daylong stops" to mark the 13th anniversary of the start of the "Palestinians' justified uprising against Israel." The result, predictably, was fresh bloodshed, which by week's end had left 10 people dead. A total of 380 people have died in sporadic fighting, the great majority of them Palestinians, since September



Anger around stalled negotiations

New revelations about Dr. Death

Former Michigan physician Jack Kevorkian, known in the media as "Dr Death," claimed to have helped 130 terminally ill people commit suicide before being convicted of second-degree murder in 1999 and sent up to 25 years. But a study of 69 of those deaths in *The New England Journal of Medicine* revealed that 75 per cent of the victims were not suffering from a potentially fatal illness and five had no discernible disease. Instead, the study said, many of the suicide victims were depressed or suffered from psychiatric disorders.

The EU challenge

Police fire Tear gas and stun grenades at about 4,000 demonstrators who tried to disrupt a meeting of the European Union in the French resort of Nice. Leaders of the 15 nations faced some hard bargaining as they wrangled with major reform in advance of the proposal's adoption of another 12 countries to the union,

including former Communist countries as well as Cyprus, Malta and Turkey. The EU must now establish an institution and decision-making process to allow the organization to function effectively when new members are admitted, probably over the next decade. "It is the most important challenge facing the European Union today," said Javier Solana, EU chief of foreign and security policy.

Debating Points

By Katherine Macklem

To pay for lunch, Robert Harper places his customized CIBC Aerogold Visa card alongside the bill on the restaurant's black menu. Like many aficionados of the Aerogold Visa, he uses the card for groceries, drug-store bills, fitness-club fees and, when he travels, health insurance. In 1996, he used the airline points earned with the card to fly to Hong Kong. Now he's accumulated another 120,000 points—enough to visit Australia. "Anything that can be charged with a Visa card," he says of himself and his wife, "we use it." Harper, a 38-year-old Toronto-based public relations consultant, is one of more than 500,000 Canadians with CIBC's Aerogold Visa card in their wallets—making it No. 1 among premium credit cards (gold, platinum and all) in the country, according to its vendor, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. Ernie Johnson, who is in charge of marketing for the bank's credit-card division, says Aerogold cardholders charge twice as much to their Visa as the average consumer does on a regular credit card. "We call them 'point enthusiasts,'" he says.

Like CIBC's Aerogold card, loyalty programs are everywhere. Gas stations, drugstores, restaurant food companies, department stores, coffee shops, even liquor stores (in Ontario and Manitoba) either have a points-type system or participate in one, such as Air Miles. Companies launch loyalty programs for the obvious reason of keeping consumers coming back, and for the controversial objective of collecting information about what consumers buy and how much they spend. Retail research consultant Rod Stirling says there's a third motive many retailers have: loyalty programs simply because the competition does. "In retail, there's a real ten-



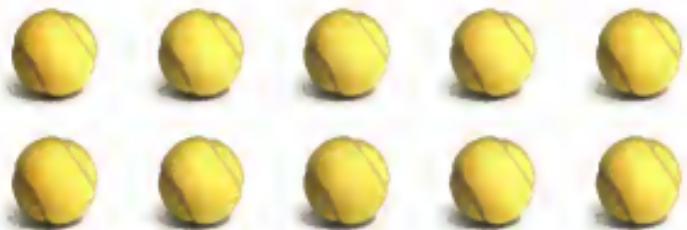
Loyalty programs are everywhere. But do they work?

Griffith. Those short words they make you carry. *By just a big hand.*

ring mentality," he says. Yet both consumers and experts question whether the points come across really do create loyalty—or value.

As the programs proliferate, they have become increasingly complex—much more intricate and detailed than the granddaddy of them all: Canadian Tire's now-famous Zetel Club. Since 1986, when members spent money at Zetel, they racked up points, which in turn could be used to "buy" items offered in a special Club Z catalogue. Now, not only are the items in the catalogue way beyond what is available in the stores—for example, a Volkswagen Beetle, going for \$3 million, or a Yamaha digital baby grand piano, at \$14 million, pants—Zetel has hooked up with others, such as banks and florists, to expand the ways consumers can add to their tally. It now offers a Club Z Visa card and a Club Z mortgage through CIBC, and Club Z Long Distance through a small telephone company.

Such alliances offer customers "the edge" and keep them coming back, says senior marketing manager Curtis Khan. They also put money back into the company's coffers. An



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consumers pay for the phone service, for instance, a small portion of the fee ("less than 10 per cent") goes to Zello's parent, Madison Bay Co., and covers its costs, Khan says.

But some consumers are put off by loyalty programs. Dan Wansen, a 37-year-old Montreal scientist, takes a dim view of the Petro-Canada reward program. "I think it's an insult," he says, noting how he gets a reward point for every 10 cents of gasoline purchased. Recently, he says, Petro-Canada offered a special. By redeeming 45,000 points, he would have been eligible for \$20 in free gas. "That's not loyalty," says Wansen. "Give me \$4,500 worth of business and I'll throw you a bone." Wansen fears the main objective for studios is to gather information about consumers, and "I don't think we're getting adequately reimbursed."

Ross Griffin, 40, who lives on a 40-foot-long 1969 Chris-Craft in the Richmond Shipyards south of Vancouver, also has concerns for some loyalty cards. An electrician and self-proclaimed "value hunter," Griffin signs off: ("Look, this was on sale with my Safeway card." He points out) on the deck of his boat. He has an Air Miles card he no longer uses (one few points), the Subway card, a Save-On grocery card and a Blockbuster card that makes him eligible for free movie rentals. "I hate these cards they make you carry," Griffin says. "It's just a big hassle. It takes a huge amount of time—and think about the poor cashiers."

Frequent user Harper has some advice for the loyalty program detractors: pick one and stick with it. "I don't want another card," he says. He is worried about the databases being collected every time he uses his CIBC Visa? Not at all. "You give me \$2,500 and I'll tell you everything," says Harper. "They can send me a park ticket. I just don't open it."

One of the latest entries in the marketplace, a program called Equity Retirement Rewards, adds a new twist to the loyalty game. It deposits money into a retirement fund. But from participating vendors, such as moving services from Atlas Van Lines, and a portion of the cost—1.6 per cent from Atlas—will be deposited in a trust fund. Each time the fund reaches \$100, the money goes into an RRSP or a similar account. Terry Zuk, whose former job as managing busi-

ness for the Toronto Blue Jays was to attract fans to the SkyDome, is CEO of Equity. Consumers today have come to expect a loyalty program, he says. For businesses, "it's almost the price of admission."

As more and more programs emerge, the burning question is, do they work? Shanks, whose firm conducted an extensive survey on what drives customer loyalty, says people don't go looking for points programs. Only four per cent of Canadians say rewards are essential to hold their allegiance, his survey found. Points can attract customers and may create repeat business, he says, but "it's a mannerism to call them loyalty programs."

Companies tend to be cagey about the true purpose of their programs, with most saying they provide "added value" to their customers. Shanks says data mining—cataloguing information about a customer's profile and spending habits—is important for marketers, who use the analysis to sell more to that client. "It's not necessarily an evil thing," he says, but he concedes there is a widespread public cynicism about it.

Certainly the programs are expensive to maintain—although companies refuse to say how costly they are. Much of the expense is in sophisticated data management systems and staff. Another big overlay is advertising and promotion, Shanks says. Robert Kenyon, spokesman for the Consumers' Association of Canada, says the programs obviously work for the vendor, or they would not exist. But do they work for the consumer? Not really, argues Kenyon, as they limit the options a consumer has. He calls loyalty programs "psychological commitment devices." At best, he believes, consumers break even if they receive a reward they wanted in the first place, they've done OK, but they lose if they end up with something they wouldn't otherwise have chosen. Ultimately, Kenyon fears, the cost of the program is passed on to the customer, although companies insist the programs pay for themselves. Break even or better, consumers know there's a price tag on their loyalty.

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Air Miles	Air Canada economy-class round-trip ticket (Sunday night stayover) Toronto to St. John's, Nfld.	\$625	4.2%
Canadian Tire	\$375 Canadian Tire money to use in-store	\$375	2.5%

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With Brende Brewster on Montreal and
Sarah Athey in Vancouver



Deirdre McMurdy

The Greenspan mystique

For the capital markets crowd, Alan Greenspan is the equivalent of Greek God. Like the enigmatic auteur, he exudes an inscrutable mystique, punctuated by cryptic utterances. Greenspan reportedly proposed these words to his wife, former White House television correspondent Andrea Mitchell, before she realized he was talking marriage. And he once quipped, to someone who asked how he was, that he wasn't allowed to answer such questions.

During the annual halcyon fall in business activity, there are two new books—both focused on Greenspan and the macro economy by managers—that should be required reading for those gearing up for 2001. This is especially true in light of the recent forecast, by the economics department at the University of Chicago, that the North American economy is headed for a hard landing in the new year.

It's no exaggeration to suggest that, despite his deliberately low-key persona, Greenspan, as chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board, is the most influential economic figure in the world. His every word is analyzed for nuances that may indicate the future direction of key interest rates. Last week, he did again in typically bland language he told an American banking conference he was concerned a U.S. economic slowdown is at hand, leaving certain major sectors vulnerable to unexpected shocks. Hardly an earth-shattering insight, but it came hotly second on the perception that these cautious words indicate the Fed is about to shift to a neutral front, a tightening bias, in its rate policy. And that Greenspan may even be poised to cut them.

To grasp just how carefully Greenspan considers every word he says in public and every move he makes, readers should first turn to author Bob Woodward's new book, *Master: Greenspan, Fed and the American Dream*. Woodward, probably the best-known investigative journalist of the last quarter-century, has clearly had unusual access to Greenspan and his circle. And the book, although impressively unctuous of Greenspan's four-year tenure as Fed chairman, presents a fascinating behind-the-scenes account of life at the epicenter of the economy.

Although Greenspan has deliberately cast himself as a grey hermit, Woodward describes a man with considerable political savvy, diplomatic skills and raw power. He is a great listener, "who nearly always learned more from the people who came to him than they learned from him." As an economic consultant prior to his Fed appointment, he had an important network of corporate contacts, which he will use as a source of information and a sounding board for policy decisions. A lifelong Republican, Greenspan neverthless managed to build a successful working relationship

with Democrat Bill Clinton, convincing him of the need to address the U.S. budget deficit early in his first term in office.

More is especially revealing now for those seeking some of the history and context for today's often-confusing economic scene. In writing Greenspan's Fed career, which began just 72 days before the market crash in October 1987, Woodward covers the critical events that have shaped policy and business conditions through the 1990s. He also details the Fed leader's epic struggle to comprehend and adapt to the new phenomena of a technology-driven economy. At 74, Greenspan is the ultimate Old Economy theorist. But through his constant attention to the most minute detail, including hourly checks of key economic indicators and charts, he has managed, so far, to contend with rapid and unpredictable growth, cushioning the urge to squash it with raw hikes.

But it's Woodward's accounts of backroom dealings, such as the Fed-orchestrated bailout of Long Term Capital Management in 1998, when he is at his best. He describes the Fed's secret involvement in arranging to engineer a rescue that would prevent U.S. markets from being dragged down by the scandal. The whole episode unraveled well after ways at the time, Woodward notes, in part because of the regular singular focus on Clinton after with Monica Lewinsky.

Still, it's probably best to read *Master* in conjunction with another book, *The Coming Interest Depression*, by economist Michael Mandel. This dense but compelling volume pulls the story of the North American economy and its management precisely where Woodward leaves off. While many experts hold that technology and the New Economy ended the traditional business cycle, Mandel argues convincingly that it has only been altered, not eliminated. And he is particularly wary of the "almost religious faith in the power of the central bank to stop the U.S. from slipping into another recession."

Mandel, in fact, says we may now be caught in a "disastrously inertial" between the end of expansion and the start of what classic writers called inflation and deflation. "At such a time, it's both reassuring and令人担忧 to know we're not alone." According to Woodward, Alan Greenspan is also baited by markets and their relationship with technology. His personal motto at the Fed is that "If you're not nervous, then you shouldn't be here." As Christmas gifts, neither one of these books will provide comfort or joy in the recipient. But the new year is always the time when the bills must be paid for all those happy holiday treats. As Mandel argues, the same may now be coming, not for the end of North America's happy economic run.



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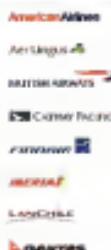


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Banks make it in

The Bank of Nova Scotia and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce both recorded handsome profits for the first year ended Oct. 31. Scotiabank's profit for the year was \$1.93 billion, up 24 per cent over the previous one. CIBC did even better, reporting profit of \$2.1 billion, double last year. The titles brought total profits for Canada's six largest banks to \$10.1 billion, up from \$8.1 billion in 1999.

BCE gets CTV

As expected, telecommunications giant BCE Inc. received approval from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission for its acquisition of national broadcaster CTV Inc. The Competition Bureau is currently reviewing BCE's proposal to buy *The Globe and Mail*. Jean-Pierre Côté, CTV's president, will become head of BCE's new media company, estimated to be worth about \$1 billion.

Cowher air tickets

Forcing to mounting fuel charges and the rising cost of doing business, the International Air Transport Association and international passengers will face price increases of about 10 per cent in the new year. The hikes will include Canadian flights to the United States

More car cutbacks

General Motors Corp. became the third big automaker to announce production cutbacks due to a slowdown in consumer demand. GM, the world's largest automaker, will trim its North American production by 14 per cent in the first quarter. GM's large cuts in Ontario, Ont., will likely take a major hit, with another 10 to 12 plants expected to be eliminated.

So long, Seagram

The Seagram family dynasty of liquor and entertainment assets faded into history after shareholders voted overwhelmingly in Montreal to accept a three-way merger with Paris-based Vivendi SA and to pay TV subsidiary Canal Plus SA. British-Dupont PLC and Pernod-Ricard SA of France agreed to bid for Seagram's liquor assets, worth about \$12 billion.

Freezing in the dark?

The east coast of natural gas

island last week, partly be-

cause the weather is begin-

ning to be long and cold.

That possibility, together with surging supplies, prompted the U.S. government to warn consumers they may pay as much as 50 per cent more to heat their homes this winter, compared with last year. That sent market prices to an all-time high of \$9.94 (U.S.) per million British thermal units. The rising costs for natural gas are due to some of the factors that are also fueling oil demand that continues to rise, fuel supply and demand increases.

The price shock almost immediately began to ripple through Canada. Although suppliers buy gas contracts



Shopping for a gas fireplace, raising energy costs

in advance, utilities that supply customers in British Columbia and Ontario applied to local regulators for increases of as much as 30 per cent. British Columbians are likely to be among the hardest hit, with bills that may well double this winter. And many may also get whacked with monthly surcharges if they don't consume. Officials in several provinces said they would look at ways to reduce the impact of the surging prices.

A western cable empire for the Shaws

Calgary-based cable giant Shaw Communications Inc. will purchase Manitoba Communications Ltd. of Winnipeg, for about \$1.2 billion. Shaw, led by family icon Jim Shaw, has long been interested in buying MCL, but Randy Moffat, who runs the family-owned cable business, has resisted—until now. Analysts said it is likely the Moffat family could no longer resist the powerful forces that are reducing the industry to three major players. Shaw is the west, Toronto-based Rogers in Ontario, and Quebec-owned Videotron in Quebec.

Financial Outlook

Canadians like plastic—but they don't especially like credit, it turns out. Debit-card use has surpassed cash as consumers' preferred method of payment. A study conducted for the Leger Association found that 42 per cent of Canadians this year favoured making purchases with their debit cards, used by various banks, while only 35 per cent chose cash. Credit cards got the nod from 20 per cent and cheques a mere two per cent.

pay since the recession began ending in 1995. The biggest users of debit cards are 35- to 44-year-olds—61 per cent preferred Debit. Only 23 per cent of Canadians own 35 and cash cards.



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has replaced cash as the favoured way to



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Tech Explorer

Warning from behind

Most pedestrians are familiar with the loud beeping noise trucks make to warn people as the driver backs up. Increasingly, too, car manufacturers are offering warning systems to alert drivers about obstacles behind them. That still leaves safety-minded owners of older vehicles without many options. Susan Alagha is trying to change that. Alagha is the president of Global Accents Ltd., the Toronto-based distributor of the Ibercane Sense warning system for drivers. "How often do you back up in a day?" asks Alagha. "There's always a risk."

For around \$300, a driver can have two sensors installed either in the rear bumper or in the body itself. The device is wired into the electrical circuit for the backup light and is activated when the driver puts the transmission in reverse. Anything within 1.2 m of the vehicle and causing trouble will be inside the car. At 80 cm, the car stops faster, and at 50 cm, the driver gets a constant tone. Alagha says she has sold 750 units to date, including 100 to the ministry at Canada's Forces Base Borden, near Borden, Ont., where cars, minivans and pickup have been equipped. Capt. Mike Cardoso, who is overseeing a one-year trial, says the rate of minor accidents—causing dented fenders, broken



Backing up using sensor device: safety

taillights and losses in productivity—has been cut by more than half since the test began last February.

Robo-Kermit

NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the California Institute of Technology, both in Pasadena, Calif., are developing a frogbot, a one-legged, hopping robot designed to explore planets, comets and asteroids. Some engineers think hopping is a better mode of locomotion than wheels in microgravity. On Earth, the 1.3-kg frogbot can hop 1.8 m, but on Mars it would leap 10x. The device, which will evolve over the next three years, is equipped with a camera, solar panels, sensors and an autonomous computer.

Keyless keyboard

To curb repetitive strain injuries, a Florida researcher at Keybowl Inc. has created the iKeyTouch laptop keyboard. Users can their hands on two domes, like bowls upside down, need to fit big or small hands. The domes slide in eight directions, with various combinations resulting in the entry of numbers and letters. The mouse is activated by pushing down the right dome, which then moves the cursor. To click on an icon, the left dome is depressed. Almost no finger or wrist motion is required. Keybowl expects to launch the \$600 unit early next year.

Cool site

Sound listening

Burs of CBC Radio are wise to the historical value of the public broadcaster's rich archive. Now, that sound legacy can be heard at [royalrecords.ca](http://www.royalrecords.ca). In collaboration with Toronto-based Iceni Media.com, the CBC is making available more than 60 years of Canadian musical, documentary, drama, comedy and historical recordings.

Danilo Havelka/Postmedia

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NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Discovery to Innovation

'Building Technology Clusters'

National Research Council president Dr. Arthur Carty was asked last month when the government announced in its election platform that a sizable portion of the \$1-billion hike in federal research spending over the next five years would be devoted to the creation of regional technology clusters. Carty has frequently argued that investment in such clusters is necessary for Canada to reach its full potential in the 21st century.

Carty would like to see the NRC's creative talents, which have led to innovations like the heart pacemaker and synthetic insulin, unleashed in the service of regional economic growth.

Last spring, the Chrétien government gave the NRC \$10 million over five years to test drive the technology cluster model in Atlantic Canada (see inset). This approach, Carty argues, should be expanded across Canada.

But many Canadians do not know what technology clusters are. Earlier this month, a reporter quizzed Carty on what he means by technology clusters and on NRC's role in their establishment. A transcript of that interview is reproduced here.



National Research Council president
Dr. Arthur Carty

questions. Turn-ups find the technical and financial support they need to become established. The success of one company often another. Eventually a critical mass of skilled people, expertise, and capital takes shape.

Q What are the components of a cluster?

Carty There are six key building blocks crucial to the ultimate emergence of a cluster, I think. The most well-known is a hub, or a nucleus, which is a business or a public organization operating from a specific location, like a building or a park. This is what can be done within the firm or in association with an organization such as NRC. Second is a high-tech workforce. Third is a knowledgeable source of venture or investment capital. Fourth, government must create an atmosphere that is conducive to growth. Government—federal, provincial or territorial—can either stimulate or restrain innovation, depending on the policies it uses. Like tax incentives or regulation. Fifth is infrastructure: airports and roads, for example. Sixth is academia and mentors to mentor new researchers and provide them with management and marketing skills. Efficient linkage among all these building blocks are the key. This technology cluster doesn't drive on the acronym they derive from associating together and from their need to resource and information.

Q What is a technology cluster?

Carty I can't stress enough the term cluster. Cluster is who can work in a group of highly interacting assets. They can be as diverse as the environment and power of innovative companies around a nucleus of academic institutions.

Clusters always have a focus, like semiconductor or pharmaceuticals. But it's not business and market inflation. They need market and technological focus and competitive intelligence. The NRC can play a major role in this area.

Q How does the process work? Can a community start these serials or must it have both an industrial and a research base directly in place?

Carty There are a lot of factors involved in making a cluster. It's not directly responsible for giving products to the market. But it is difficult to start from scratch and expect success. Generally speaking, you're looking for some sort of activity that is encouraging you close as a natural strength. Cape Breton is a good example. It is more than a beautiful tourist destination. NRC has a number of small companies producing software products on Shell, small and medium-sized enterprises that work which is a good logic and effective cluster.

What are they trying to develop? They are strong. R&D that could help companies innovate and grow. They are also strong venture capital. But, by

What is needed is an organized effort and a clear plan to leverage long-term resource growth from Atlantic Canada's excellent resources. NRC is in it for the long haul. We know that it takes community commitment and community involvement to translate big ideas like this into action.

bringing more resources, NRC can influence the growth of this cluster. We can help bring the community together, including educational institutions and local governments. It's not going to happen overnight. But it's a classic example of an area that we can help develop and sustain.

Q Who are both the basic research and innovation cluster institutions on display between the two?

Carty I refer a business news of Montreal, which is to say that it is a priority by which also an industrial and development and then successfully taken into the marketplace. My perspective involves just the creation and application of ideas. It involves multiple players when the basic and basic research informs the buck and makes innovation and vice versa. There is a lot of interaction and feedback.

Q What have talked about a lot of different components that are needed for a cluster to work, what precisely does the NRC bring to the table?

Carty NRC is involved throughout the most precise from discovery to innovation. One of our bigger strengths is world-class research. We have excellent R&D laboratories and personnel. We have a presence throughout the country and we have global links. Our programs funds SMEs with

NRC's Atlantic Initiative

Global Reach—Local Touch

The National Research Council (NRC) will invest up to \$110 million over the next five years in Atlantic Canada to expand its existing facilities and build new sites. These efforts will help local communities and regions develop new technology clusters.

This initiative is part of the federal government's \$750-million Atlantic Investment Partnership and targets specific R&D and technology-development opportunities. NRC's efforts represent a key research and innovation component of the mix of partnerships that will help linkage among key players and extend the innovation infrastructure needed to support growth in leading-edge technology sectors. The initiatives will help draw investments in new technology and research opportunities help attract and retain highly skilled workers, and foster the growth of globally competitive companies in Atlantic Canada.

NOVA SCOTIA

NRC has been working closely with members of the Nova Scotia life sciences community to help the

region become one of the world's top R&D centers in the marine sector. NRC, InNOVA Corp., Dalhousie University, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), the Greater Halifax Partnership, and industry in Nova Scotia are convinced that Halifax will be a strong R&D base and growing technology cluster when it takes to form a world-class technology cluster. NRC will build on its existing research and partnership strengths in the fields of genetics, biotechnology and medical diagnostics and increase the scientific capacity of its institute for Marine Sciences in Halifax.

New NRC investment on Cape Breton Island will emphasize on the importance of information technology. Drawing on its research base in information technology, NRC will establish a nucleus of IT research staff in Sydney. This group will help create linkages to national and international R&D programs and will help provide the critical research data needed to sustain the growth of IT sectors in Cape Breton. The development is the result of a two-year planning effort in partnership with InNOVA Corp., The University College of Cape Breton, SMCs and others.

Hon. Billie Bates
Minister of Industry
December, 2000

NEWFOUNDLAND

An ocean engineering cluster is emerging around NRC's Institute for Marine Sciences in St. John's. Memorial University of Newfoundland and a number of local firms, including SMCs. For the past 15 years, NRC has played a key role in providing research expertise and testing facilities for new ocean technologies and offshore developments in the region. Their current mandate will set them up to serve the future needs of industry and to provide the research foundations for the ocean engineering cluster to grow a world-leading capacity. NRC will also initiate activities to form co-operation among

One of our government's principal goals is to ensure that all Canadians have the opportunity to participate in Canada's economic development. Through organizations like the National Research Council we will work together to build on the strengths and opportunities that exist in our communities and develop globally competitive technology centres in all regions of Canada.

public sector research partners and will establish an incubator facility to spin off technologies and attract further investment.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

The expansion of NRC's presence in PEI will help increase scientific capacity and strengthen the province's innovation infrastructure. NRC, in consultation with the University of Prince Edward Island, industry and major stakeholders, is also planning to establish a research effort in PEI to help build its national science capacity in the area of biosciences and environment. The initiative will build on existing research strengths and will attract investment to the island.

NEW BRUNSWICK

A new NRC research institute devoted to biosciences and information technology will be a key element to a technology cluster in New Brunswick. The new institute will establish research collaborations and close working relationships with government universities and other partners across the province and to closely link into NRC's national facilities and capabilities. The institute will have as many base laboratories with satellite laboratories in Moncton and Saint John. These groups will be linked by a high-speed broadband network which will form part of the innovative infrastructure for the research program. Partners include the Province of New Brunswick, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and New Brunswick companies.



Above right: NRC scientists have helped develop optical hot chips that will soon be used to analyze disease through optical fibre. An industry leader for measured major new products based on life technology. Credit: National Research Council



Left: DNA sequencing is a powerful tool for understanding biological processes. Development in biotechnology and genetics are producing reduced costs in medicine, health care, agriculture and the environment. DNA sequencing is a central focus for a technology cluster in Halifax. Credit: National Research Council

COMPONENTS OF INNOVATION



Innovation is the creation of value and the application of that value in new products and services. Canada's innovation system is a complex alliance of value between source of capital, industries, universities, government agencies that are essential to turning knowledge into competitive economic advantage. The National Research Council (NRC) is a central component. NRC is an applied research performer and an effective catalyst for innovation, forging strong linkages among key players. It is vital to build partnerships and stimulate the social mix of resources—material, technological, financial and human—needed for successful innovation clusters.

above. Broadened support and access to the best available information, NRC is also one of the largest providers of scientific, technical and medical publications in the world and operates 120 scientific publishing programs.

And we have seen at this thing that is important to the development of disease, we can provide a model and experience to help it work. Our role is not to prove it is necessary and say this is when you are going to do it. That would not work. What we can do is bring the people together to discuss what resources are available and to suggest processes. We leave it at a risk—community commitment and community involvement to measure big ideas like this across across. We are also in for the long haul.

Q Do you partially a licensing role?

Gerry: Yes. Think of NRC as an agent of innovation. We can help a company identify a need and put together a road map to it. In some places, we might already have a physical presence in the form of an office. That is obviously an economic advantage. In other cases such as our current effort to help New Brunswick develop a commerce cluster, we have to build a presence. We can do that by using NRC's excellent information technology research program as a foundation and drawing on it to deliver some of the components needed for e-commerce.

Q Do you have the capacity to get involved in a number of clusters across the country?

Gerry: I think a capacity means its principle, not you do it. The states know. Do we have the resources to do something? The answer is no. The government has to set what we can do, partly through what we have accomplished on commissions like Ontario and Sudbury partly through the beginning we have now made in the Atlantic Provinces. We certainly hope the next budget will give us the opportunity to take it much further.

Q The Liberal party's intent, 'Real' change, clearly identifies technology clusters as a core element of their national innovation strategy in that statement?

Gerry: Innovation clusters have a lot of elements and government must be in place. A national

innovation strategy requires making strategic investments in help and technology clusters. These must also be public sector investments in research capacity at organizations like NRC.

Q If you look at attempts to create technology clusters in other parts of the world, what has been critical to their ultimate success?

Gerry: Always there was an R&D organization and an educational institution involved, usually one or more universities working together with a government lab. One of the best examples is Helsinki, Finland. It has a science-based research pool, that is universities, while the lab and they all private resources for R&D. There are about 100 companies involved. I think the total output is now around \$22 billion in revenue. The Taiwanese government played a big role. A central organization for it is called the National Science Council in Taiwan, the equivalent of the NRC, provided the infrastructure, technology and network access.

You can also see, in the case of Ontario and its applied life sciences and pharmaceuticals industry, as example of how revenue and research capability feed increased growth. They attract other organizations like a magnet. Over a period of time companies and universities have been

drawn here to build on an R&D base built over a long period of time. There are also lots of start-up companies and spin-offs from NRC and local universities.

Q That is the case of Ottawa, you are talking about a sector, microelectronics, where the NRC has made a large investment over a number of years. Do you need that research foundation for a cluster to work?

Gerry: If you look back over NRC history, you will see our success here basis where we made a number of investments in an area which was at the forefront of what was happening and then kept that going to the point where it became a national policy. Things like telecommunications and pharmaceuticals. Today many of the strong programs are in biotechnology. The biotechnology area is something NRC does extremely well. We do not have a problem bringing people from different disciplines together.

Q Looking across the country can you identify communities where the current mix of factors is favourable for technology clusters?

Gerry: They would include fuel cells in British Columbia, nano-systems and medical imaging in Alberta, pharmaceuticals in Quebec, photonics and biologics in Ontario. There also has to be look at possibilities emerging from our international universities. They're not as traditional business incubators, which generally provide financial help and

Communities need to break down the walls that separate organizations, institutions, sectors, jurisdictions, neighborhoods, or people. Only if communities are strong in terms of the united efforts of their members... can they attract and hold job-creating businesses whose ties reach many places.

Academy Mississauga
World Class. Thriving Locally
in the Global Economy



space, and telephone. I am talking about the initiatives when the companies have access to R&D resources, technical expertise, and networks. We have one in Ontario that deals with macrostructured resources and information technology. It is full and has already graduated ten major growth company SMEs. Macmillan. The incubator for biotechnology we built in Mississauga for biotechnology we built in Mississauga in terms of research and development investments is needed in focused R&D sectors in terms of focused responses to these challenges, as to

Q: What are some of the hot areas of research that we need to invest in now to grow the clusters of the future?

Gerry: Biotechnology, genetics, biopharmaceuticals, and nanotechnology, those are the sorts of things NBC has already been investing in.

Q: In talking about technology clusters, you are also talking about a degree of strategic investment that typically has not been made in Canada. How does our performance in developing clusters fare in comparison to that of other countries?

Gerry: We are behind the United States. There has usually been a pretty good job of it. There are clusters in Germany and Italy, although not always

by design. Currently, the Koreans have done it. And there is no question that it has happened in certain parts of Canada, in Saskatoon, Manitoba, Ontario. But we need to do a lot more.

Any country requires a significant investment in the area to support scientific research driven by individual capacity as well, strategic investments in research and development in terms of focused responses to these challenges, as to

What they are to "How To" books on clustering. NBC has had considerable experience with the process through its involvement in the development of successful high-tech clusters in Ottawa, Montreal, Saskatoon, and, increasingly, Winnipeg and Vancouver. Clustering and regional innovation initiatives – bush around NBC's world-class R&D facilities – are an important part of our overall strategy to promote innovation and wealth creation for the benefit of Canadians.

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Q:

What the NBC area are for more information on its Atlantic initiatives, www.nrc.ca/atlantic/



When oil rigs must be carefully designed to withstand rough seas, offshore engineering research is the key to a technology cluster in St. John's, Canada. (NRC)

info: **Magnitude Biometrics** Imaging is an important advancement in health care. NBC research leads provide medical professionals with innovative information on how a drug or treatment affects the brain. Applications include diagnosis of the many forms of dementia as well as measurement related to brain repair. Credit: Michael Bernick

Research Council

peak. All of the major countries in the world have focused initiatives in specific technologies. This is one of the things we do very well. NBC has the capacity to look research work up front. We are taking a much more active role in imaging it all together, integrating research with technology transfer and innovation.

Q: How essential is it that we invest in the development of clusters? What is the upside for Canada?

Gerry: There are a lot of benefits. The benefits in the economy are tremendous, ranging from the creation of high skilled jobs, stronger growth and wealth creation, and innovation in community innovation and infrastructure, such as life-style facilities, health care and higher education.

But beyond that I think there is a sense of pride in community involvement, being able to be part of something that is reputable, that is forward-looking – the place to be. That is a big plus. Once a community really decides to make it a world-class technology centre, it dominates its own success in the national and global economies.

Visit the NBC area for more information on its Atlantic initiatives, www.nrc.ca/atlantic/

Concerned on the part of the *Financial Post* that the quality of education is "seriously under threat"

\$15,000. For an academic year, negotiations have a fixed to maintain tuition increasing for those already receiving it, and to cap tuition increases at two per cent for the next four years.

The teaching assistants argue that, despite a current surplus of \$18 million, York has boosted graduate tuition fees by 35 per cent in the past 10 years. Without rebates, tuition fees now account for 52 per cent of a teaching assistant's income, and students are finding it harder to manage. The union also wants more job security for contract faculty, some of whom have been with the university for more than 15 years. Together, teaching assistants and contract professors benefit about 60 per cent of the teaching load at York, says David Castled, a TA in social science. "Those who study and work here are concerned about the quality of education and feel it's seriously under threat."

Graduate funding packages in Canada are far below those at top European and U.S. research universities. Last spring, a U of T task force recommended that the university provide a minimum of \$32,000 per year to graduate students, plus the cost of tuition. However, the university rejected demands by teaching assistants for tuition rebates when they went on strike, offering a bare bones financial assistance. "More universities could not afford this tuition without grad students," says Auel Mehta, president of Memorial University of Newfoundland, who helped lead a contentious deal in a recent faculty strike by offering a wage increase of more than 20 per cent over three years. Graduate students also form a critical talent pool from which to draw future faculty and, says Mehta, "it is important to have good working relationships."

In the meantime, undergraduates at York feel shortchanged. The administration has already cancelled February's teaching week and the school year could be extended into the summer. Many students who initially supported the strike now feel caught in the middle. "I don't think any of us believed it would go on this long," says Morgan Passa, a first-year film and video major. "It's really stressing a lot of people." That anger is likely to last long after a settlement is reached. ■



Education

Teachers on strike

A bitter fight cripples York University

By John Schellfeld

Through her Spanish 101, Paquel Zepeda's voice betrays an untranslatable bitterness. For years the 18-year-old native of El Salvador dreamed of studying in Canada. Last year, her father dug into his retirement savings to help cover the cost. Now, the first-year psychology student at Toronto's York University finds herself mired in one of the longest strikes in history, and the second labour disruption in only three years. Roughly 2,400 unionized teaching assistants, graduate students and contract faculty members walked out on Oct. 26, demanding greater job security and commensurate pay raises from skyrocketing tuition rates.

At a result, many classes were brought to a standstill. While Zepeda, whose native tongue totals more than \$30,000, sympathizes with their cause, she fears her year will be ruined. "I feel like I've been 'locked' in," she says. "It's like I came here for nothing." Administrators at York agree they simply cannot afford to meet the workers' demands. Provincial operating grants have dropped by 31 per cent since 1992, putting Ontario at the bottom of a per capita funding pecking order. Phyllis Clark, vice-president of finance and administration, says that York U is the highest paid in the province, ranking up to

gaming had completely broken down, primarily over the issue of tuition rebates for teaching assistants. Since 1996, York has reimbursed TAs for tuition bills—the only university in Ontario to do so. Now, it wants to end the practice. Some observers say it is unacceptable to pressure other institutions, including the University of Toronto and McMaster University, where the same demand sparked走 by TAs in the past year. The issue also figure prominently in a potential strike by teaching assistants at Carleton University in Ottawa. The dispute all point to the same basic issue: Canada's cash-strapped campuses and the particular difficulties faced by graduate students in the wake of large tuition increases. "Universities are being squeezed," says Jen Tark, executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers. "And, in turn, they're squeezing their faculty and students."

Administrators at York agree they simply cannot afford to meet the workers' demands. Provincial operating grants have dropped by 31 per cent since 1992, putting Ontario at the bottom of a per capita funding pecking order. Phyllis Clark, vice-president of finance and administration, says that York U is the highest paid in the province, ranking up to

For details

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Sports

Bruising in Belfast

In Belfast, they call him "Puck," a reference to both his name—Pierre Schuhé—and his brawling demeanor—210 lbs of muscle stacked upon a six-foot, two-inch frame. And long before the first puck is dropped, the crowd in the city's sparkling new arena is an inferno, calling his name. "He's the big Canadian fella," says housewife Mary Margaret O'Brien, "the one that causes all the trouble." Once the game is under way, Schuhé does not disappoint. With an minute left in the first period, he converts a goal-mouth pass, giving the Belfast Giants a one-goal lead. Less than two minutes later, he's in a fight. Seconds after returning to the ice from the penalty box, he's engaged in another scuffle, earning a game misconduct. The arena's 7,500 fans cheer as he skates angrily from the ice. "Love the big fella," right-winged extremist O'Brien. "He could be Irish."

Will the Irish learn to love a Canadian club on ice?

Also, can also get the puck in the net, as he proved on Dec. 2 when he scored the first goal in the first professional hockey game ever played in Northern Ireland's capital. The Giants were established earlier that year and played their first 15 games on the road, inviting competition of what Giants coach Dave Whistle

Rolfert Schuhé Johnson (right) squares with April Sauer during a game.

likes to call "our magnificent new home base." Chartered the Odyssey Arena, it is the centerpiece of a \$200-million redevelopment of the city's docklands.

The organization is almost entirely Canadian. Coach Whistle, who is also the Giants' general manager, is from Thunder Bay, Ont. Except for a lone American, the team's 18-player rosters consists of Canadians. A few have NHL experience—defenceman Jason Bowen scored up for 77 games with Philadelphia and four with Edmonton—but most are career minor-leaguers. And the team's co-owners—chairman Alister MacLennan and managing director Robert Zeller—are both Canadians.

Their gamble may well pay off if the Giants' recent home opener is an indication. The team lost 2-1 to the Ayr Scottish Eagles, but there was not an empty seat in the arena. Giants fans, including many watching their first-ever game, roared goal-related shouts with a visiting 300-strong contingent of fans from Ayr. The friendly concession stands ran out of hotdogs before the first kickoff, and out of beer and licenced privacy before the final whistle.

It was Zeller, 58, a former journalist, who conceived the idea of a team in Belfast four years ago. "Everybody thought I was crazy at first," he concedes. And that includes coach Whistle and most players. "I seriously thought long and hard about coming here," says team captain Jeff Houli, 27, of Brandon, Man. "The problem was Belfast and everything you ever heard or read about the place and all the troubles."

Zeller understood. "We're from the north of the island, so we had to hold something that was above Northern Ireland's politics," he says. To that end, the team's emblem and title comes from Pats McCauley, the legendary giant of Irish myth who is revered by both Protestants and Roman Catholics. The team's colors are neither Catholic green nor Protestant orange. There are no hymns or anthems at Giants games, no hymns of the country's troubles. "The aim is to keep the violence off the ice," says Zeller, "not in the stands or on the streets." It works in Canada.

Barry Cason in Belfast

cordless freedom



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Chaos at the waterworks

An inquiry hears of negligence at Walkerton plant



Thomson's quipful words: "I guess burden lifted off our shoulders."

Breaking down in tears several times during two days of testimony before an inquiry into the contamination of the water supply in Walkerton, Ont., the foreman of the town's waterworks described an effectively dysfunctional operation. Employees drink on the job, had little training, routinely falsified labels on our samples and claimed the water was clean even when it was known to be contaminated with *E. coli* bacteria, said Frank Koebel. Seven people died and 2,300 became ill before health authorities warned the community last May not to drink tap water without boiling it. A source revealed that Koebel's brother, Stan, his boss in charge of the water system, has resigned after agreeing to a financial settlement. He was still undergoing psychiatric assessment to determine if he is fit to testify at the inquiry. Meanwhile, after replacement of the water main and filtration system, health officials declared the tap water once again safe to drink in the hamlet of about 5,000, 150 km northwest of Toronto. "Today's announcement means a gigantic burden has been lifted off our shoulders," said Mayor David Thomson on Dec. 5, toasting the event with a glass of newly purified water.

TB flexes its muscles

While not as prevalent as it once was, tuberculosis still poses a public threat. In Montreal, Victor-Miguel Sebastian-Rosales, 28, a refugee from Peru, promised in court that he would diligently take his medication for a multi-drug-resistant form of TB; health authorities had threatened to send him to jail as a threat to public health if he continued to neglect his treatment. In Toronto, hospital staff said a Dominion man and his Canadian wife, both also suffering from TB, patient drug-resistant forms, were on



Sebastian-Rosales at drug-resistant TB

operating an escorting measure. The man arrived in Canada in November, 1999, after a Canadian doctor at the Dominican Republic referred him to an X-ray and concluded he was not contagious. The discovery that he has been living with the disease in Hamilton since then, and had passed it to his wife, set off a search for people who had had contact with the couple over a broad stretch of southern Ontario. Authorities tested 35 of more than 1,200 people tested so far have been found positive and will need to take antibiotics for up to a year.

Rabies on the loose

The discovery of rabid skunks and raccoons in St. Stephen, N.B., on the Maine border, has prompted health and animal-welfare experts to warn that a new strain of the disease could spread quickly through the Maritimes. The deadly Atlantic variety of raccoon rabies has been creeping slowly northwest along the eastern seaboard of the United States. So far, the virus has not affected domestic animals or humans in New Brunswick, but it has been found in nine raccoons and skunks. In Ontario, 45 cases of raccoon rabies have been identified, since the virus first appeared in Canada last year, crossing from upstate New York into the area near Sudberville.

Surviving alone

The parents who opposed an operation to separate their conjoined twin but were overruled by a British court say their surviving daughter "is going to be a real fighter." Michelangelo and Rina Arredondo of Mexico spoke publicly for the first time in London, a month after the 20-hour operation on the then nine-month-old girl took place in Manchester. An interview, Mary, the weaker infant, who was kept alive by sister Josie's heart and lungs, died during the procedure. The mother and Josie now feed from a bottle and breathes without a ventilator. "She makes sounds when she is talking with us and she smiles at people and us," the said. Michelangelo Arredondo said they still continue to mourn with Mary's death.

Fighting the fall



Below: a lunch with Switzerland and companion for Disney Jr.

When Mel Gibson ran into Donald Sutherland at the Four Seasons in Toronto last week, he was reminded of the time close to 20 years ago that the two actors lunched together in New York City. "It was the days when you could smoke in restaurants," says Gibson. "I remember I was lit up and, right in the middle of the conversation, he pulled a small pocket fan out and blew the smoke back in my face."

Gibson's new movie, *What Women Want*, co-starring Helen Hunt, opens on Friday. But the 46-year-old's next project—directing a stage version of *Hamlet* starring Robert Downey Jr.—will be put on hold. "He'll be all right," says Gibson, referring to Downey's drug relapse and subsequent arrest. "Everybody fails." Adds Gibson, who no longer drinks alcohol after some well-publicized troubles. "I told him [not to] for the easy fans falling prey."

Politics is a Rough(er) Trade

At the launch of Candice Pape's new book, *Sex Disc*, people were telling her she should move back to Canada and run for prime minister. And as the westward-leaning-galaxy rocker, formerly of *Rough Trade*, sat at a Toronto publishing house the day after the Canadian election, she played with the notion. "Maybe when I'm really grown up I might have to go to Parliament, and I'd just be swearing at people," says Pape, who is close to 30. "Besides, I'm more fascinated with American politics." Pape is a dual

citizen of the U.K. and Canada—her parents moved the family from Manchester to a suburb of Toronto when she was a child—and she now lives in Los Angeles. Although she did vote in the United States, she demonstrated against those trying to impeach President Bill Clinton. "We are just swearing," she says, "for President Hillary."

Pope isn't the only thing the fresh

Dungeon keeper

Courtney Solomon was a 28-year-old high-school graduate when he solved the ditz and made a pitch for the movie rights to *Dragon's & Dragons*, based on the hugely popular role-playing game. Ten years later, the Toronto-born first-time director has completed the \$35-million independent film complete with 150 computer-generated dragons.

The 30-year-old says he tried to incorporate as many of the fantasy game's rules into his film as possible to please the millions of gamers worldwide. But Solomon, who played D & D in college during his teens, who had written the movie, who stars Jeremy Irons—enjoyable for assassins and assassins. "The film may be more basic than your standard D & D player might want in it," he says, "but they're still seeing a lot of their world and the creatures in their world." In his quest for Hollywood fame, Solomon has slain his first dragon.



fascinating in the States. "I want to write a book about the lesbians some in Los Angeles," says Pape, who has been open about her sexual preference since the start of her career. "All the queens I know are power dykes. They all have their Prada briefcases. It's Prada, it's Helmut Lang, it's Gucci—sophy." But that's not Pape. The once-macho, leather-clad, androgynous singer is single to her core—the reason an anti diva



Syncopated storytelling

Paul Simon's *You're the One* may be his best album to date

In storytelling the art of words or the alchemy of sound? For Paul Simon, master songwriter, it all begins with a beat. "You have to catch the right rhythms to get people's attention," he told *Maclean's* recently. "If you get it wrong, people don't hear you." Storytelling last month at Toronto's Massey Hall, prior to one of two sold-out concerts, Simon explained the genesis of his latest album, *Music to Be Loved*, an evocative collection of warm, gentle songs about fate and mortality.

Rhythms and rhyme have been the cornerstones of Simon's celebrated career, as far back as the mid-1960s when he and partner Art Garfunkel first gained prominence in America's rag folkies. That pair's *Book of Changes* Troubadour album in 1970 offered hints of Latin and Caribbean music. But it was as a solo artist that Simon's passion for poetry and syncopation took hold in earnest. His 1986 *Graceland* helped to change the course of popular music with an exuberant blend of South African and American sounds. And 1990's *The Rhythm of the Saints*, a rhythmic caper that juxtaposed musical elements from West Africa, Brazil and Louisiana, served as a critically acclaimed follow-up. Although his 1997 project *Capricorn*, a Broadway musical about a Puerto Rican master in New York, bombed at the box office, Simon, 59, is now back on track with *Music to Be Loved*. An artful and timeless mix of global rhythms and poetic wisdom, it ranks as possibly his best album to date.

"It all started with a rhythmic processor," Simon says, "which in turn triggered various musical keys, because drums have a tone. Then, once I got a sense of the keys and the harmonic



Simon in concert. The words didn't come until a full year after the music.

shape of the album, I built the music upon guitar pieces. The words didn't come until a full year after I'd recorded the music with a band." As he sings on the album's opening track, "Somewhere in a Barn of Glory/Brand becomes a song/I'm bound to tell a story/That's where I belong."

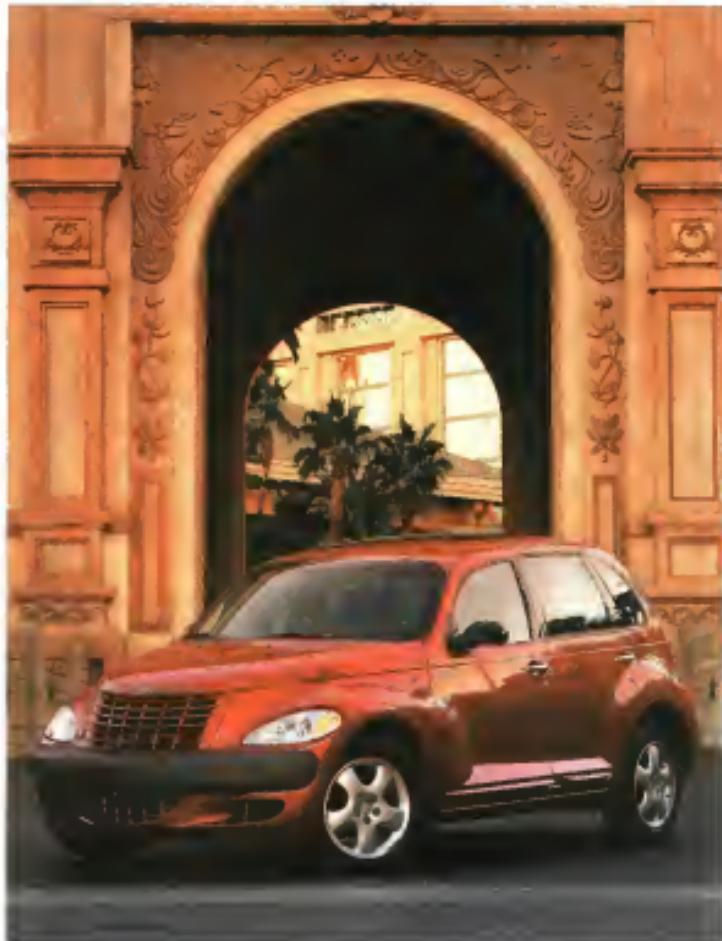
Storytelling, Simon continues, grows out of the music. "I'm part of two traditions by my nature," he says, citing such favorite writers as Tol' Hughes, John Neihardt and Nobel Prize-winning poet Derek Walcott, with whom he collaborated on *Garrison*. "I carry a notebook in which I scribble down thoughts, phrases, images, names, plants—anything I think that might be useful. They don't make sense at that point. Then eventually the rhythm of some phrase fits with what's happening melodically and the song starts to take on meaning. Some songs on *Music to Be Loved* such as the wistful narrative tale of *Berling Lassowee*, are rich in characters and dialogue. It measured them sometimes glossed over without consciousness." Sure, Simon admits, "If your whole

life's profession has been gathering kindling wood because you know you're going to build a fire, you get to the point where you can spot a piece of kindling."

With a United Nations of formidable musicians, including Cameroonian guitarists Vincent Nguini, South African bassist Bokuthi Koenig and Lebanese-American percussionist Jimmy Haddad, *You're the One* is an anomaly: global albums. Simon believes that music is ultimately universal. "I don't know how Canadians think about it, but Americans seem to view world music as something that excludes them," he says. "Yet every culture has its blues, its honky-tonk, or blues through hollowed-out bones. American music itself is made up of musical traditions from all over the world, like the blues, an originally African instrument. We all share this vocabulary. That's the nature of music." And the nature of Paul Simon's music is a compelling mix of rhythms and rhymes that continues to captivate listeners the world over.

Nicholas Jennings

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The 2000 Honour Roll

Canadians who made a difference



When B.C. high-school principal Ann Willcocks learned that she would be on the *Maclean's* 2000 Honour Roll, she suggested the magazine's selection board had failed to do its homework. "I'm feeling really bad about this," Willcocks said, claiming others were far more worthy.

Over the Honour Roll's 15-year history, such comments are typical. Clearly, accolade goes hand in hand with achieving excellence, especially for those who work outside the public spotlight. Even the wildly popular Barenaked Ladies exhibit a genuine appre-

Barenaked Ladies
Thomas and
Christiane Lemire
Daniel Igali
Lorie Kane
Mike Lazaridis
Bruce Mau
Bonna Mous
Samantha Nutt
Michael Ondracek
Hubert Reeves
Mark Starowicz
Ann Willcocks

with their fans and admit none of the laughters of many entertainers. Mike Lazaridis, the wealthy founder of high-tech Research in Motion Ltd., would rather be known for enhancing our awareness of physics. Designer Bruce Mau, equally near famous outside Canada than within, applies his natural creativity to his work.

Another honoree recognized more abroad than at home is astrophysicist Hubert Reeves, who is equally comfortable lecturing courageous students or postgraduates. Golde Lorie Kane, who used to be known better for her smile than for her writing ways, this year learned to complain both. It was also a big year for writer Michael Ondracek, who received four major literary awards.

Consider another characteristic of honorees: Canadians who "made a difference."

What better example than refugee Daniel Igali, who left behind his family in Nigeria to become Canada's first-ever Olympic gold-medal wrestler. The CBC's Mark Starowicz overcame other challenges to create and execute the popular and meaningful TV series *Canada A People's History*.

To "make a difference," Dr. Samantha Nutt has invested the world in aid of children who are victims of war. For siblings Thomas and Christiane Lemire, the quest to effect change, in their case to find a cure for their mother's leukemia, began in their preteen days. And for nurse Bonna Mous, every day is an opportunity to improve the lives of others.

All honorees receive a bronze medal, designed by Toronto artist Doa de Pidery-Hure. It depicts the winged horse Pegasus, whose goal, soaring to the heavens, reflects the spirit of the *Maclean's* Honour Roll.

Michael Benefer



For past recipients, see
www.maclean's.ca

'It's my thank-you to the country that was so nice to me'

Igali... Igali? It was 1996 and the close of the Commonwealth Games in Victoria when Tom McEvoy, a Port Alberni, B.C., secondary-school principal and an official with the event's wrestling program, head of a delegation from the Nigerian team. A 20-year-old wrestler named Daniel Igali was training in Canada. "Igali? He came eleven?" McEvoy recalls quizzing. "Why couldn't it have been one of their better wrestlers?"

Fast-forward six years to a Port Alberni school gymnasium. McEvoy tells the assembled students the story at his expense. Beside him, laughing, in Canadian sweater vests, are Daniel Igali, Canadian cancer, 1998, world amateur freestyle wrestling champion, 1999, winner at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, Canada's first wrestling gold medal.

The power and life-gave of Igali's body for the gold drew new attention to an ancient sport, but it was the moments after the victory that captured the essence of this complex and emotional man. Igali was watching on television and, him literally, wrap himself in the Canadian flag. Then, spreading it reverently on a wrestling mat, he jogged around it before kneeling to kiss the symbol of his adoptive country. Tears streaked down his face during the Canadian national anthem. It's a favorite question during a day visiting nine Port Alberni schools, and one he often hears during his hectic post-Olympic schedule: "Why did you kiss the flag?"

The answer is simple. "It's my thank-you to the country that was so nice to me," he explains at one school. The joy, the kiss, the tears were also the culmination of an remarkable journey from the remote Nigerian village of Enugu Town, where he was raised in a tiny home crowded with many of his 20 brothers and sisters. His mother is a teacher, his father an accountants with three other wives. The nearest telephone is a two-day journey

Igali's trip six years ago to Victoria was his first visit to North America, the first time he would competitively wrestle white men, the first time he'd visited a city where cars stopped to let you cross the road. At the Olympics, his stars sprung from "the hardest and the best" dozen of his life—to run back on the military origins then ruling Nigeria. "I know you will be upset," he wrote his mother, "but you will eventually understand why I'm doing what I'm doing." He tells a little of the story at each school, usually

Daniel Igali

pulling the gold medal out of his pocket, to grasp and cheer and, yes, a few tears.

To Igali, the medal is the beginning of another journey. Now 26, he is just as credits sky of his criminology degree from Simon Fraser University in Vancouver and strung for a spring graduation. That, he tells students, is his most important goal.

Igali was to return to Nigeria this month for a triumphant homecoming. He'll be carrying a video cassette of his Olympic victory. In a whispering aside, he promises to edit out the tears, emotion his Nigerian friends wouldn't understand. "Every time I see that," he says, leaving a sigh, "I say to myself, 'You're such a wuss.'"

His opponents on the mat would beg to differ.

Ken MacQuae

Daniel Igali,
by John Lehman,
in Vancouver



'There is a hunger out there to hear our stories'

On a cold and rainy November night, only a handful of people have shown up at a University of Toronto lecture hall to hear Mark Starowicz talk about a decidedly unsexy topic—public broadcasting. But the head of CBC-TV's documentary unit is nevertheless delighted to deliver the annual Hudd Finn lecture. Just as it was one of the scores of Canadian nationalists, an economic historian who was a pioneer in communications studies before his death in 1952. And Starowicz is honouring his memory by telling stories mostly about the business of tellings stories. He speaks of his eight-decade-long struggle for Canadian content on the airwaves and about his own brainchild, the CBC's monumental 30-hour *Canada's People History*. He dwells on his conversations with potential corporate sponsors who worried whether the network would sell enough "pop or soap." In the end, Starowicz tells his audience, the CBC put up almost the entire \$25 million for a project that would never have seen the light of day on private television. "The marketplace will not," he declares, "open up by its own laws, produce what is necessary and good for our children and our society. That's not how it works."

Starowicz, the history series executive producer, as well as the creative force behind *As It Happens* and *The Journal*, during his three decades at the public network, has earned the right to rob it blind. Not only has *A People's History* won praise from historians, the citizens whose stories it tells have watched it in record numbers. When asked how he manages to keep his faith in public broadcasting when all around him seem to be losing theirs, Starowicz responds: "They're wrong, that's all."

They're just wrong—there is a hunger out there to hear our stories."

Not that the Toronto-based Starowicz, 54, the son of Polish immigrants who came to Montreal when he was 7, was born with a CBC logo tattooed on him. The McGill University history graduate took a job at the network in 1970 only because he had been fired by *The Toronto Star*. At first, it seemed as though Starowicz and electronic journalism were not fated to get along. "What my probation exceeded twice, in hopes I would get become a team player," the father of two teenage daughters laughingly recalls.

What turned his job into a cause and gave him "a sense of the romance of the misfortune that I've never lost" was a surprise invitation to Graham Spry's 70th birthday party shortly after he joined the CBC. Starowicz had never heard of Spry—journalist, diplomat and early advocate of public broadcasting. But once at the gala affair, staring at the likes of former prime minister Lester Pearson and NDP leader Tommy Douglas, Starowicz also saw Spry warmly generate at the younger broadcasters and say they had been invited "to represent community." At that moment, "I was a lost man," remembers Starowicz. "I knew I had joined something bigger than the CBC."

Ever since, he has been dedicated to that continuity, to the idea that only public broadcasting has the ability and inclination to allow Canadians to talk to one another across generations and regions. And as long as there is such a CBC, Mark Starowicz plans to be part of it, telling Canadians their stories.

Julia Bertholf

Mark Starowicz
by Peter SIRFIELD
at CBC station
in Toronto



Mark Starowicz

Berna Moss



Berna Moss,
by Todd Korol,
in Bassano, Alta.

Last year, just before Christmas, a river water accident caused near Bassano, Alta., 150 km east of Calgary, killing one person and critically injuring three others. Berna Moss, managing supervisor at the Bassano Health Centre, was on the highway returning from nearby Brooks when she received the call on her cellphone. Within 10 minutes, Moss was on the job, clearly overseeing the winning trauma team that successfully stabilized the three crash survivors and readied them for transport to Calgary. As is often the case in rural settings, the doctors and nurses know the patients they were treating—but in an emergency there is no room for sentiment. “You have to handle the situation and then deal with the emotional areas when the dust settles,” says Moss. “It’s very tough.”

Moss, 60, knows all about working at close quarters with friends, family and neighbours. She spent most of her childhood in Bassano, a farming and ranching community of 1,400. It is also where she met and later married her high-school sweetheart, Edwin Moss. After living in Germany, Ontario, Edmonson, Saskatchewan, the United States and Calgary, the couple returned to Bassano in 1980. Edwin set up a one-man veterinary practice, while Berna, who had worked for two decades mostly in an operating-room nurse, assisted her husband for four years before taking the head-nurse position at the Bassano General Hospital. A year later, she became director of nursing. In that capacity, she has increased younger nurses’ presence, promoted a palliative-care program and spearheaded the creation of the Bassano Health Centre, widely regarded as a model for rural health-care delivery.

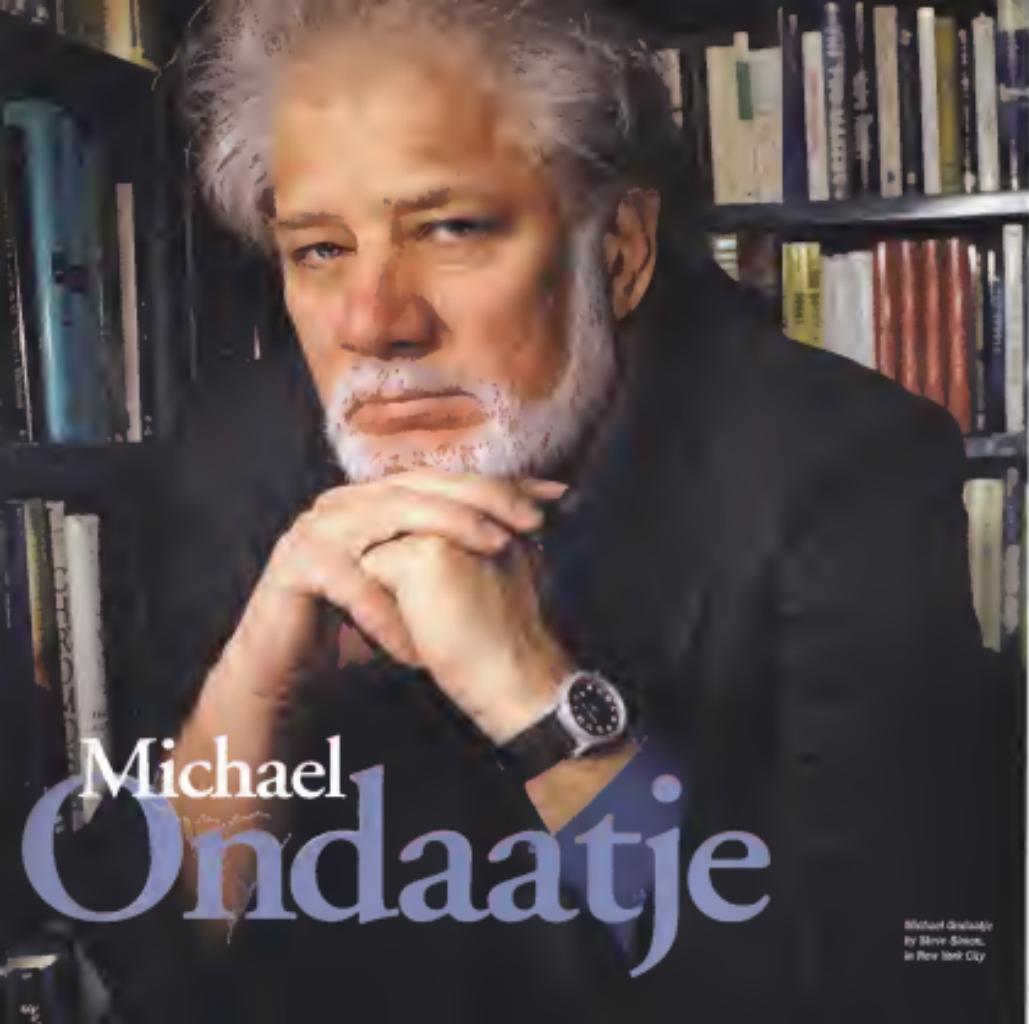
Moss’ efforts resulted in a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses in May. “Berna displays a love of nursing that motivates us all,” says Bonnie Kraus, 26, a staff nurse at the health centre. “There is no better gift to be given.”

Moss credits her profession—one that surveys show Canadians hold in very high esteem—at the age of 12, when an operating-room nurse and family friend from Victoria paid a visit. “She was so organized and in control of her life,” says Moss, smiling at the memory. “I decided right then I wanted to be a nurse.” Moss received her nursing diploma from the Calgary General Hospital in 1961, a time when nurses still wore starched white uniforms and caps—an attire that matched the emotional distance they kept from patients. “We used to be very stiff,” says Moss. “Now, I see nurses hugging patients and family members, crying with them. I think it’s great, because we are human.”

For Moss, rural nursing holds a special appeal, both for the challenges of the job and the uncomplicated lifestyle. A mother of two grown sons and grandmother of six, she lives with her husband on an 85-acre parcel of land, a seven-minute drive from work. When they aren’t riding their horses, the couple like to ski, travel—or just enjoy small-town life. “I’d love to walk down the street or into the post office and know everyone,” she says. And while retirement looms, Moss appears in no hurry to give up her life’s work. “In this profession, you can make such a difference in someone’s life,” she says. “I get a very good feeling from that.”

Brian Bergen

***You can make
such a difference
in someone's life***



Michael Ondatje

Michael Ondatje
by Steve Simon,
in New York City

Michael Ondatje takes the A-train to work, a half-hour ride from his Soho loft to Hadley, where he's spending three months as a writer in residence, teaching literature to medical students at Columbia University's Presbyterian Hospital. "Ten years ago, this was the most dangerous corner on the eastern seaboard," he says, crossing Broadway and 145th Street outside the hospital. "Every week, it would rock the emergency ward with 50 soldiers and gunshot wounds." Then he points to an old building with a wooden facade. "That's the Audubon Ballroom, where Malcolm X was shot."

Ondatje sees the past under the surface of things, like the forensic anthropologist in *As If* Ghoz who reconstructs a skeleton from a Sri Lankan cave and

"What interests me is the poetry of the skill — how things work, and how people work"

lays her pen along the bone to show how they were raised by fire. He is a poet and a novelist, whose novels are often called poetic. "But I always think poetry is just the most precise writing," he says. "What interests me is the poetry of the world — how things work, and how people work." Whether writing about bomb disposal, bridge building or blowing a comet, Ondatje wields his own skill like a jazz archaeologist, discovering the story by digging through layers of improvisation and research. He writes in scenes, drafting his novel in an opaque swirl, and telling anyone what they are about, not even his wife, until they are done.

Out of this private place Ondatje creates literary fiction with extraordinary resonance. *The English Patient* (1992) sold more than one million copies and inspired a movie that won nine Oscars, and its author became the first Canadian to win a British Booker Prize. This year, *As If* Ghoz won four

major awards, including the Giller and the Governor General's, but for all his success, Ondatje has stayed loyal to the community that nurtured him in accepting the Giller. He defended the spotlight to less celebrated writers, deflating the award to novelist Carole Corbeil, who died in October. And with his wife, Linda Spalding, and her daughter, Eva — both accomplished authors — he still finds time to help edit *Now!,* an online literary journal.

Ondatje is our most international author. Quasimodishly Canadian, his fiction deepens identity and blurs through borders. He writes with the compassion of a literary peacekeeper, exploring the aftermath of violence in narratives that telescope back through time. Disturbing bones and bombs, he is an author in search of a history. His own begins in colonial Ceylon, now Sri Lanka. The youngest of four

children, he moved to England with his family at 11, immigrated to Canada at 19. Now 57, Ondatje — who has two grown children from his first marriage — calls Toronto home.

For the moment, though, he's hanging out with doctors and students in Manhattan, as part of a program called Narrative Medicine run by a physician, Rita Charon, who has pictures of Henry James and Virginia Woolf on her office wall. (Diagnosis, the place, is about listening to stories.) Ondatje teaches one novel a week and brings in speakers such as author Joan Didion. One day, his guest is Dr. Michael Schull, Canadian president of Doctors Without Borders, who tells tales of medical refugee from refugee camps in Bosnia and Bangladesh. Ondatje, still the student, sits in the front row with his sheet of paper, listening with rapt attention. A writer without borders.

BRUNO D. JOHNSON

Lorie Kane

Lorie Kane,
by Phil Sest,
in Naples, Fla.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PHIL SEST

There's a misconception about Lorie Kane. It started when, having been asked too many times about her competitiveness, she jokingly told a television reporter that it came from her training as a synchronized swimmer. "Why I had to explain why I smiled all the time is beyond me," she recalls, sitting on the living-room sofa in her condominium in Naples, Fla. The reporter didn't get the joke, however, and relayed it in fact during subsequent telecasts, making Kane's explanation seem phony.

Hardly. Lorie Kane smiles because she's happy and growing happier. Why not. The Charlottetown native, who turns 30 on Dec. 19, just completed arguably the best year ever by a Canadian golfer. She won three LPGA titles, earned about \$2 million in prize money and endorsements, and represented Canada at two international team events. Anything else? "I was made an honorary lawnmower in St. Louis," she says. "That was pretty cool."

Friarg, too. Despite her champagne budget, Kane has been twice when it comes to power-round drinks. She fulfilled an official at the Michelob Light Classic in St. Louis, Missouri August that "it's about three years my manager was won by a beer drinker." And so it was. After more second-place finishes than first, Your money equalled double—including her own—about Kane's ability to win, and it was covered by a run accolade: a string of players, women against whom Kane compassed every week, stayed behind long after their own rounds were finished to congrat-

late and shower her in—what else?—beer. Kane credits a happy upbringing for her winning personality, but the source of her indomitable spirit may be her struggles in school. Though undeniably intelligent, she had a terrible time academically. It was confounding to her parents and teachers, and heartbreaking for Kane, who as a little girl had to work far harder than other kids just to keep up. Even then, she barely advanced through some grades, had to repeat Grade 6, and get into Austin University in Wolfville, N.S., on scholarship—the wanting to prove wrong a high-school counselor who said she'd never make it.

Happily, a career in sport had always been her dream. She excelled in basketball, field hockey, synchronized swimming and, anything else she tried. "In my mind, when people would ask what I wanted to be when I grew up, I'd always say a professional athlete," she recalls. "What sport? I had no idea." Golf was part something she did in the summer, and it wasn't until she left university that she got serious about the game that has made her rich and famous. She didn't qualify for the LPGA until she was 29, but quickly played her way to the top ranks. The lone bloomer who occasionally still struggles is in her demeanor, confidence she can now take um with becoming the world's No. 1 player in women's golf. "That will be extremely hard," I know that," she says. "But it's like I finally figured out how to win the year, and I want to see how far I can go." Smiling, we doubt, all the way.

James Deacon

*I finally
figured out
how to win
and I want
to see how
far I can go.'*

It is mid-morning and Mike Lazaridis is behind the wheel of his dark black BMW M5. Like a panther, the car glides through the streets of Waterloo, Ont., where he lives and works. But one gets the feeling that the Beemer, like its owner—the billionaire founder of high-tech Research in Motion Ltd.—is really built for the information highway. Should Lazaridis drive into a ditch and find himself late for an appointment, he could call a tow truck, then e-mail word of his late arrival—all without unstrapping his seat belt. And if he gets lost? Implanted in the dashboard is a computer with an advanced global positioning system. He reaches out to turn it on and不知道 what it can do, then thinks better of it. "Ah, longer it is," says the 39-year-old Lazaridis, whose huge map of auburn hair makes him appear a decade older. "Once you start fiddling with this, you take your attention off the road and you can kill yourself."

It's the only sign of caution from this wunder-kind of the wireless world. The son of Greeks who immigrated to Canada from Turkey in 1967, Lazaridis quit his University of Waterloo electrical engineering studies at age 23. He left up friends and family for money, then started RIM with two of the friends in 1984. It now boasts 900 workers and a market capitalization of more than \$9 billion. Last year, Lazaridis and a RIM co-worker shared an Academy Award for technical achievement after designing a device that quickened the pace of film editing.

But the jewel in RIM's crown is the BlackBerry. A little larger than a credit card, it is considered the wireless gadget among Silicon Valley's techies royalty. It can send and

Jane O'Hara

receive e-mail, surf the Internet and electronically organize data. Think of it as a 586 computer powered by a single A battery that can hide in the palm of one's hand. "Our timing was perfect," says Lazaridis, the middle father of two children. "We knew that convergence, among computers, wireless and the Internet, was important. We could not believe that it happened in the middle of what we were working on."

As RIM's president and co-CEO, Lazaridis' main concern is commercial success and shareholder value. But Lazaridis the man has more theoretical aspirations. In October, he donated \$100 million worth of his RIM shares to create a research venture

Waterloo devoted to the study of physics—the mathematical laws governing the physical world. Lazaridis dreams of nothing less than unlocking the hidden secrets of the universe. Put another way, he is looking for the next Einstein. "The advances we have today—lasers, fibre optics, magnetic imaging machines—come from basic research that was done at the turn of the century," he says. "We have to invest in basic science so the generations to come will have the foundation to build new discoveries at the end of the next century."

Lazaridis' gift is the largest in Canadian history. His dream already has a name: Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics. When completed in 2002, it will replace a crumbling hockey arena in downtown Waterloo that sits between a park and a museum. "Isn't it beautiful?" he asks, driving through the site. "To raise the awareness of physics, what better place than here."

Mike Lazaridis



MIKE LAZARIDIS
CO-FOUNDER OF RIM
BY JANE O'HARA



Samantha Nutt,
by Selena Usher,
at refugee camp on
Myanmar-Thai border

MACLEAN'S HONOUR ROLL 2000

Samantha Nutt

De Samantha Nutt has difficulty describing her most memorable experience. It might be last September in Winnipeg when she stood on stage with the Tragically Hip before 80,000 people, while lead singer Gord Downie urged fans to contribute to her organization, War Child Canada. They raised more than \$300,000 that night. Or it might be the time in Burundi when Nutt was blindfolded, father and son marched into fields and shot by local militia. Or when she was "countless times" allowed into places and situations that would have been closed to a male colleague, "says the youthful-looking 31-year-old best known as 'Suzi'."

With her ebullient manner, Nutt seems the prototypical All-Canadian Girl Next Door—but her accomplishments would be impressive for someone of any age. Since 1995, Nutt has waded through quagmires from Iraq to Somalia to, last month, the border of Thailand and Myanmar to help in the production of a one-hour documentary on the war-torn areas. A graduate of McMaster University's medical school in Hamilton, she is founder/director of the International Health Fellowship Program at Sunnybrook & Women's College Health Sciences Centre in Toronto—where she also has a general practice.

But home for the Torontonian now is Ottawa, the base of War Child Canada—an offshoot of an organization founded in Great Britain that works with people in the entertainment and music industries to help children in war zones. Those efforts include a New Year's Eve concert in Toronto last year that

drew more than 250,000 people, the Winnipeg show, and videos and documentaries produced with MuchMusic.

Nutt's sensitivity to injustice springs from the days when her father, then a designer with Buick Shoes, was posted to a apartheid-era South Africa. At 4, she recalls being reduced to tears when a black friend she was playing with was ordered to leave a whites-only park. Back in Canada, she enrolled in drama and "as the girl in every sports team or anything involving music." She decided to study science in McMaster to show that she was "brilliant and credible." Then, one professor gave a "shock-the-world" speech that awakened her humanitarian instincts.

Nutt focuses on young people as the subject and salvation of her work. The rebel armies she has dealt with are filled with boys as young as 8, some of whom have killed countless times. "They have no moral conception of right and wrong," she says. At home, she's heartened by the response from young Canadians to her plea to help others: "You have to reach them in ways they understand."

Last September, Nutt married Eric Heston, a physician who has worked with her in dangerous zones. In January, she'll go to either the former Yugoslavia or Sri Lanka. In the year ahead, Nutt hopes to keep the same mix of medical work abroad and consciousness-raising efforts at home. One memory that drives her is a report card from a high school teacher who wrote that Suzi was a "charming force in a sound environment." These days, the seems a true

*"You have to
reach them
in ways they
understand"*

Anthony Wilson-Smith

It was just before Christmas in 1987 when 11-year-old Thomas Ichim spent two hours in the kitchen of his family's small apartment in Kitchener, Ont. The room was dark, save for the glow light, but in the shadows he saw his Romanian-born parents, Dumitru and Flores, crying together. The older of six children, Thomas was told the grim news that his 42-year-old mother had been diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukemia—a usually fatal blood cancer. She had two years to live.

For Thomas, so gifted he had aced high-school physics and chemistry in the third grade, there was no time to waste. With a dillidile

blood cells, which, in 1994, garnered them gold medals at both a regional and Canada-wide science fair.

Previous, save. But the Ichims also have an unstoppable drive. In 1993, when they wanted to try an experiment using pig's blood, the two teenagers built a lab in their basement using Thomas's bicycle wheel as a centrifuge and a heat lamp from Canadian Tire to keep the cellular body temperature. The year later, determined to attend an international cancer symposium in Washington, they asked former organizers if they could participate, adding they couldn't afford the \$1,500 conference fee. The fees were waived and the two

Thomas and Christine Ichim

bros. set out to cure his mother's disease. First, he enlisted the help of his equally brilliant 10-year-old sister, Christine, with whom he had collaborated before, collecting rocks and performing scientific experiments, once almost blowing up the family stove. "We said, 'Look, our mother is dying, we can either spend that hour playing with our friends or we can study the disease,'" recalls Thomas, 24, now working on his master's thesis in microbiology and immunology at the University of Western Ontario in London. Christine, a 23-year-old graduate student in medical biophysics at the University of Toronto who in 1996 roller-bladed across Canada raising \$150,000 for cancer research, adds: "Most doctors have hundreds of patients. We just have one."

And so began their suddenly quantum quest. They started by reading medical-journal articles dealing with cancer, leukemia and the cutting-edge treatments. That led to projects involving the effects of vitamin C on white

blood cells, which, in 1994, garnered them gold medals at both a regional and Canada-wide science fair.

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June O'Hearn



Thomas and Christine Ichim, by June O'Hearn, at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto

"We didn't want to be seen as child prodigies"

Today their mother is still alive and proud her children are working in a field that could one day help other people like her. She wasn't always so optimistic. Back when her kids were spending hours in the basement lab, she didn't take them seriously. "Moms thought it was just our way of psychologically dealing with the fact she had cancer," said Thomas. Little did she know.



Bruce Mau

For someone whose graphic touch has sought the world over, designer Bruce Mau has a Toronto studio that is surprisingly spare, barely even warehouse chic. The modern black-on-white sign in the door, elegant in classic (Inde-Gothic) font, could be for an accountant. Don't be fooled. Modernity is a Mau-at weapon. It allows him to sound the superhuman, to be cheery about charts and, most important, to assert himself and his 25-member team in each project with the intensity of the born again. "We take on a lot of things we don't know how to do," says Mau. "And we produce things no one else does because we come to it as naive characters."

A compact, soft-spoken man with a pumpkin-faced grin, the 40-year-old Mau is one of Canada's most successful, if little-known, cultural exporters. He first made his mark 15 years ago as the designer of *New York City-based Zone Books*, a high-end imprimatur specializing in visual art and urban culture. Through numerous awards and royalties, Mau made academic books annual, almost erotic. And soon the international design world was heading a path in his Toronto studio. Clients include such world-renowned architects as Frank Gehry and Rem Koolhaas. Mau's logo and strategy open the door to cultural institutions in Toronto (the Art Gallery of Ontario among them), Montreal, New York, Los Angeles, Rotterdam and London. They are an impressive testimony to someone who grew up on a farm outside Sudbury, Ont., and, as a teenager in the mid-1970s, hunted and ran his own trapline to help put food on the table.

Anatosis—with the eye of alchemical—Mau has

**'We produce things
no one else does'**

This month sees him publish *216 Style*, a 626-page Marshall McLuhan-style collage of imagery and observations as seen through the work of Bruce Mau Design. Earlier than he was (with Koolhaas) the international competition to create a 320-acre urban park on the old Downsview military base in suburban Toronto ("Downsview was a declaration we couldn't design a definitive park," says Mau dryly). So his team went back in time and devised a plan to plant and plow the old base under, repeatedly, to return the soil to what it was before the military arrived, to prepare it for the circle of trees that Mau envisions and the natural evolution that will come. It is a plan for a neighbourhood also in a kind of mid-life maturation. And a pick for a hip cat who grew up in a forest: performance art with satans holding the palms.

Robert Sheppard

Ann Willcocks



Ann Willcocks
by Bryan Stannard
in Burnaby, B.C.

In mid-morning at Burnaby North Secondary School and principal Ann Willcocks is catching up on unfinished business. She has summoned Grade 11 student Mira Chandler, who slips tentatively into her office. "I'm just so proud of you," Willcocks says. The school finished second last month in a provincial swim meet, and Chandler placed in the top five in four events. For the next 16 inmates, no one in the principal's world is more important. At the 16-year-old's arrival to class, Willcocks seems reverent. "They're so focused," she says, "just feel lucky to be working with them."

Burnaby North, with more than 2,000 ethnically diverse students, is the second-largest high school in British Columbia. Willcocks considers her September arrival here the latest step in a career of lucky accidents—beginning with a decision, at a new teacher in her native England, to tour North America. She walked into Canada House in London in 1967 hoping for temporary work to underwrite her travels. She walked out with a teaching job in the Vancouver suburb of Burnaby. "I didn't even know where Vancouver was," she recalls. Willcocks arrived in Centennial Year, longed in Montreal for Expo 67, then gained a year-long lesson in Canadian geography on the long trip to the west coast.

Visiting the rest of North America would take time. "I just fell in love with B.C.," says Willcocks, who became a citizen in 1988. "One year led into another and before I knew it, it was 30 years gone in the flash of an eye." Administration was another accident: Willcocks shifted from head of physics to a vice-principal who was ill. She then discovered she was building of another son.

"Willcocks is unmarried and without children," "I guess it never had time." Her evenings and weekends are filled with school activities and sports meets. Or with netball—a distant cousin of basketball and a popular women's sport in some Commonwealth countries. She has introduced it to local schools with missionary zeal and is coach of Canadian national teams. As with teaching, the reward is watching a team grow. "You just have very, very lucky to always be with wonderful people who have worked closely as a team," she says. "I've had their expense to guide me along."

Sharon Gadsden of the B.C. Principals' and Vice-principals' Association credits Willcocks with helping to develop the province's model Student Leadership program, running such extracurricular activities as student council, fund-raising or assembly organizing into a credit course. School life is enriched and students gain skills in time management, public speaking, event planning and consensus building.

"It's probably the best course I've ever taken," says Burnaby North student council president Jason Kelvin, 17. "Mrs. Willcocks is awesome. She lets us do pretty much what we want—and she means what we do. And, we pretty much always exceed her expectations." A case in point is what Kelvin calls "the best Remembrance Day ceremony in Burnaby North history." It was powerful and poignant—from the veterans who spoke to the chair's rendition of *Danny Boy*. It took three assemblies to accommodate the school population. Says Willcocks: "I cried every time."

*'I've just been very
lucky to be with
wonderful people'*

Kara MacQueen



Barenaked Ladies

There's something funny about the Barenaked Ladies. Always has been. It started 12 years ago with the Toronto band's choice of that name and nerdy clothes like shorts and howling shirts. And then there are the dull songs and goofy stage antics—all of which have enthused them to millions of fans around the world. But the Ladie good humor unk just shocks, it's an intimate quality that they unanswered up two years ago to deal with maturation. Just after the quintet recorded its soon-to-be-a-megahit album *Show*, their keyboardist, Kevin Hearn, was diagnosed with leukemia. The solo-splintered members counted graves of love and support from his band mates, their families and everyone who works with the group. But the other Ladies also kept him laughing during his 18 months of serious illness. Just before a life-saving bone-marrow transplant from his brother, they "all phoned and sang 'Happy Birthday' to you" on the tone of "Happy Birthday," he recalls. "They did a New Year's Eve show in Philadelphia and called me on a telephone from the stage and had the whole audience cheering."

Hearn is now fully recovered and on the road with the band to promote its new album. A major Barenaked Ladies tour has become a triumphal march through the major arenas of North America, but the group—founded in 1988 by singer-guitarists Steven Page and Ed Robertson, now both 36—haven't been laughing. A few hours before showtime recently at the Aronoff Amphitheatre in West Palm Beach, Fla., the same badging is anything but the canoodly seven

deadly sins of rock 'n' roll. Drummer (and married father) Tyler Stewart, 35, is preparing to work out on the exercise machines that travel with the band. Bass player Jim Coogler, 36, has his yoga teacher with him. A blue bedspread is laid out on a patch of grass so that Robertson's wife, Natalie Herbig, and their two young children can hang out with Page's spouse, Carolyn Hacken, and their two little girls. "We're all pretty good boys when it comes right down to it," says Stewart. "We were all raised properly."

Once the Ladies take the stage at 8:30 on this balmy Florida night, they engage in a two-hour love-in with 6,000 fans. Many hold signs wishing Robertson a happy 36th birthday. Among the dozens of people accompanied by children at Weston, Fla., producing Eric Wenstrom, who's there with his wife, their 13-year-old son and 11-year-old daughter. "The Barenaked Ladies are good, clean-cut fun," he says. But as the crowd sings along to old and new songs, the band's jovial playfulness can have a cutting edge. Between tunes, when Robertson waddles out loud why the Ladies continue to dwell in the cold north, Page offers: "We just don't love gauze enough to live down here."

After the show, the musicians chat with fans who have won contests to meet them. The Ladies deadly enjoy talking to people who have helped make their Canadian most internationally successful band right now. Then, at 1 a.m., they board their bus for the 3½-hour drive to Orlando. The next night there will be more wacky fans—and more Barenaked wackiness and warmth.

Patricia Hinchey

Hubert Reeves

In a darkened suburban Montreal classroom, Hubert Reeves, the unassumingly unswayed Quebec astrophysicist, stands before a rapt audience. The 40 kindergarten students fidget nervously, but their eyes are glued to Reeves's slide show. Each time a planet, comet or star appears on the screen, they go "ahhhhh!" Reeves, 65, is one of the world's leading experts on the big bang theory—that the universe began some 15 billion years ago with a fiery explosion. But here at Ecole Secondaire Québec elementary school, the five-foot-four-inch intellectual giant with the white beard and wispy hair has a simply unassuming giant speaking to his grandson's class.

Reeves has a flair for making complex information understandable—even to five-year-olds. In addition to publishing 10 books, the Montreal-born Reeves has become a popular figure in France, where he has 10,000 students a year and appears frequently on television and in lecture halls. "I never imagined that I would become a popularizer," he says later. When he published his first book, which explored the geography and history of the universe, 30 publishers passed him by. "They told me, 'Astronomy doesn't interest anybody,'" recalls Reeves. He proved otherwise. He eventually found a Parisian publisher for *Answers about Space: L'Univers en images* (*Answers of Silence: An Exploration of Cosmic Evolution*). Released in 1982, the book was an enormous success, selling more than one million copies in 25 languages. That and subsequent best-sellers have led to major literary and other awards in France and Canada.

Reeves showed a passion for scientific growing

up in Montreal. At 16, he secured a summer job at Harvard University's observatory near Cambridge, Mass. "It was fantastic to spend my nights observing the sky," he recalls. Later, Reeves obtained degrees from the Université de Montréal and McGill University before heading to Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., where he earned his doctorate in nuclear astrophysics in 1960. This was the nascent period of the American space program, and Reeves taught teaching classes at the Université de Montréal with work in a consultant for NASA's Institute for Space Studies in New York City. In 1966, he moved his family and four children to Europe

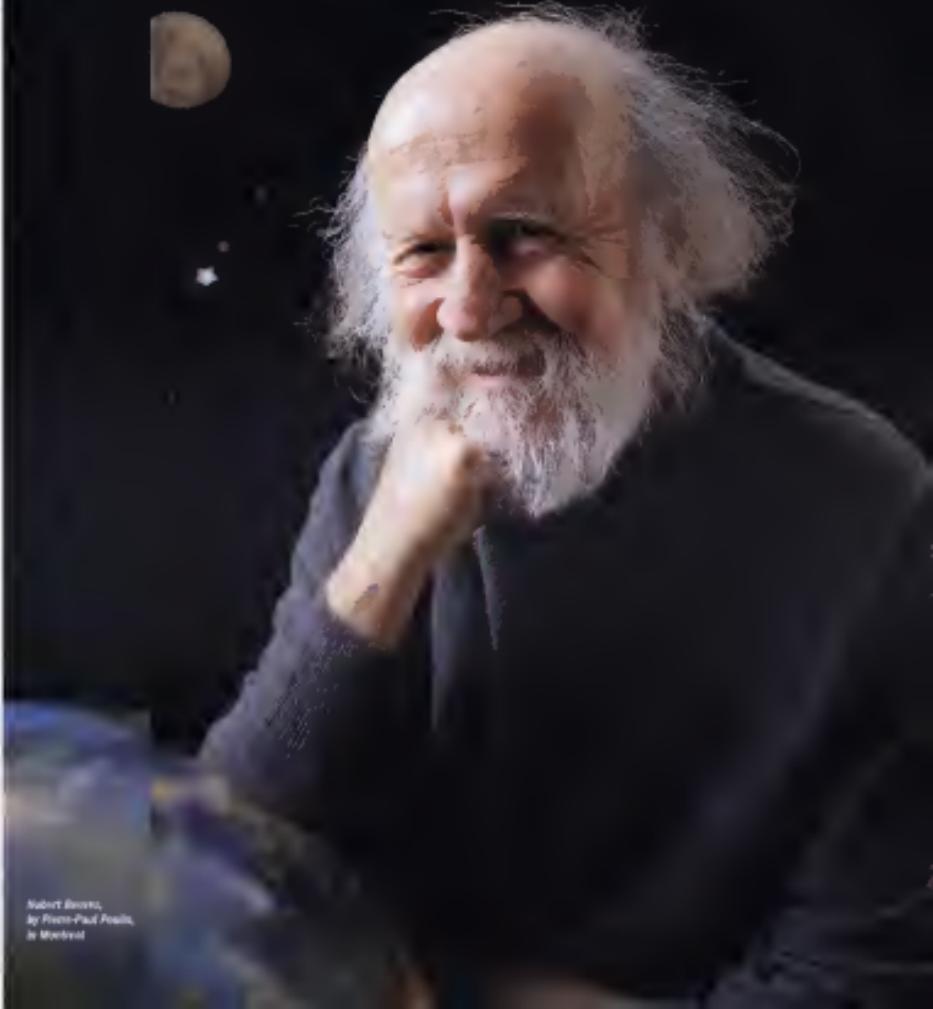
for a teaching job in Belgium. A year later, he became director of research at the prestigious Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in Paris.

Reeves brings his work on the big bang theory to that of a humanist. "It's really an extraordinary way to be able to go back to the first second of the universe," he says. Reeves arrived last year, but remains active in all aspects of science. Every spring and fall, he returns to Quebec to visit family and give academic lectures. The rest of the year, Reeves and his wife divide their time between a home in Paris and a farm in Burgundy where they sometimes stop. His face could pass for a mask on the subject of Venus, his favorite planet. At nightfall in a slightly bluish sky, the glowing planet is an extraordinary spectacle, he says. "It's a very intense feeling when you're alone before the sky," adds Reeves. "I find it really a very profound sentiment."

'It's a very intense feeling when you're alone before the sky'

Brinda Brusawell

Hubert Reeves,
by René-Paul Poirier,
in Montreal



Tales wise and woeful

By Brian Bethune

Some 200 children and adults are steadily awaiting author Lemmy Snicker when a man leaps up from the back of the audience. "Mr Snicker can't come, I'm afraid," he calls out, raising his way to the stage at Toronto's Young People's Theatre. "It's actually a sad thing that has happened, very sad indeed. He went on a picnic and he was bitten by a bug. Now he's paralysed. I've come to his place." Donald Hender, aka Lemmy Snicker—one of the hottest sensations in children's literature—is in his element, keeping his audience off-balance and laughing helplessly for an

More than ever, young readers can choose from an array of sophisticated books

hour. Or perhaps it's best to say one of his elements: the 30-year-old American with the hangdog face in a unique phenomenon—a superb-terrible writer with the soul of a lawn actor. "It's a new dog," says Phyllis Simon, co-owner of Vancouver's Kidbooks, "in here an author who can deliver the goods not just on the page but in person."

In the great Harry Potter line, that will last another year the tens of thousands of nine- to 13-year-olds brought to reading by J. K. Rowling, boy wizard still has book gear to outdo and sophistication that even before he chose from. They include Hender-Snicker's biliousely raunchy *Seven of Diamonds* (Avon), which, with the recent publication of *The Amber Spyglass* (Hyperion Trophy, \$13.95), has now reached five alternative titles, and British writer Philip Pullman's masterpiece, *The Amber Spyglass* (Knopf, \$29.95). Exceptional Canadian novels include those by CBC veterans Bill



Hender and his *leddy*. *Photo: Vancouver*

Richardson, Newfoundland author Janet McNaughton and Governor-General's Award winner Deborah Ellis.

Hender is a prime example of children's literature's growing cross-genre appeal. His novels show the reading range of the three BookFest children—enlightened by their parents' death in a fire, thermal from the imagination or very relative to another, instantly pained for their inexperience by their distant loneliness, the old Coast



who has also published adult novels, uses the same approach for different age groups. "I don't write down to kids," says Hender, who lives in San Francisco with his wife, Lisa Brown, a designer and

DaimlerChrysler Canada Inc.
and its family of retailers
are proud to join with all
Canadians in saluting the
members of the
Maclean's Honour Roll.



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THEIR'S ONLY ONE

Children revel in Handler's world of utter adult fatuity, while grown-ups love the literary references

QUESTION: "They get most of my jobs, they know not require anything. They even recognize the names, obviously."

The novel's literary references, from the French poet who lost his name to the orphans to Stead's *Dante-esque* lost lost, Baudelaire, are part of the appeal for adults. (There are too high-minded to ban as well—Klara and Sunny Baudelaire take their names from the principals in the *Land van Belofte* mentioned in the endnote of the 1990s.) Adults and children alike have the advantage here. When baby Sunny, described as "charming and well-mannered" but a "Fight with an unadulable, toothy visage, blade, the struggle reminds us of Stead's "of a woodland I was forced to have with a television monitor not long ago."

"Kids on the cusp of puberty also find it 'side-splittingly funny,' says Toronto bookeller Jenny Kuhn. "We read about someone having a better life than they are. They can also read in a world of other adult fantasy. The grown-up comic is no socialist well-meaning but ineffectual, or evil and slightly more capable. Handler, who has had the sad distinction of steering a perfect recall of how he life as a child, bases his adult characters on his own memories. 'I remember learning to swim very young and the teacher saying want to me, swim to me. When I did I could see her stop kick. Most kids have experience of someone plugging them.'

Handler says he enjoys Canada, and not only because in Vancouver and Toronto he has dealers with bigger crowds anywhere. There is just something about the country that strikes a deep chord in the writer's soul. He says, "Speaking as an outside observer, he says, visibly marching into the Arctic Rockies, my books seem to me quintessentially Canadian in their perception of a healthy and happy world that

as indifferent as to whether you're going to be happy or not? Perhaps but Canadian fans recognise a kindred spirit:

At an entirely opposite pole from Harry Stedman's novels, but equally many of the same fire, is Philip Pullman's trilogy, *His Dark Materials*, now brought to a triumphant conclusion by *The Amber Spyglass*. From an beginning in *The Golden Compass* (1995), set in a world of humans whose souls cast out



McNerney, the public press is powered by their anger.

enjoy it, without making it sound like red梅酒," says bookendler Kahn. And whatever readers might make of Paltzman's religious views, there is no missing the beautiful expression of his own moral vision, which provides the animating spirit for what is arguably the finest children's story ever written.

Even the Bradeshire orphans might hesitate to switch places with Klyber, the 11-year-old namesake of Deborah Elliot's Governor General's Award-winning *Looking for U* (Groundwood, \$7.95). Klyber lives with his single mother, a former stripper, and her 11-year-old twin nieces, beaten in a public-housing complex in downtown Toronto. It may sound like a recipe for a dour exercise in circumspect writing, but Elliot's narrative is a mix of tenderness and sarcasm that makes the book a joy to read.

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beheld orientalos, has made a slender
way come alive with the incandescent
character of Khyber.

A highly intelligent, somewhat naive and fiercely loyal child, Klyber was struck with a batch name "so unpeckably horrible that I shall never speak it, not even under torture."

She calls herself after the Afghan hound can pass the place to one day Klybret known perfectly well that a chronic lack of money raises his life, but she more than makes do with her loving mother and peaceful arrangement. And with friends like X, the silent benevolent women, clearly morally ill, who frequent a nearby park bench. When X disappears, Klybret sets out on a dangerous all-night search for her friend young Yvonne. Seeing, looking for X has in flow, suddenly an ending that seems too happy but in young protagonist will linger in memory eternally.

From the main street of present-day Tatwos, CBC broadcaster Bill Richardson goes to the heart of another fairy tale when *After Homelands* (Rating: 59%) The story begins by 101-year-old Penelope, who suddenly went deaf 90 years earlier. That was just in time to avoid the fate of all the other children of Homelands village, who were snatched away from their homes and families by the Red Pipes. Local war icon Gaikwad tells the story. That she can now sit with her gift of Deep Desiring... so shabby as it was in her dreams. Penelope enters into the assembly room where the Paper dweller, retelling the tale of a milking cat, a three-legged dog, a sleeping dragon and a singing Tolovana (a land of game hedgehogs with wings).

Richardson has skillfully crafted two very different voices for his novices, one belonging to 11-year-old Prue, who tells the story of her rescue, the other for her elderly aif who speaks of current events. The quest for the lost children is exciting but disastrous, a tale



introduction: an introduction to the study

of bravery, loyalty and sacrifice that seems slightly unreal. But the courageous countenance of 100-year-old Petronela is a clear-eyed marvel, full of hard-won wisdom and bewitching serenity. Unlike the child, the woman knows that pain, sorrow and loss are human constants, and it's her story that makes *After Flanerie* so remarkable.

In *The Seven Years My Skin* (Harper Collins, \$14.95), St. John's author Janet McNaughton has written a superb novel set in 2308, in the wake of huge-scale environmental and social breakdown. Captured by the repressive authorities, seven child Bly Rayne begins the story in a labour camp. It's a fate luckier than that can be for many abandoned children, summarily dispatched by death squads. By chance she is picked to be an aide in the local bio-indicator, whose responsibility is to isolate mutants like the human equivalent of a canary in a coal mine. Bly's new purpose is to bring the teenager for the first time into the world of possibility—of learning, relevance and even love.

Needs of ecological dynamics are far from unimportant, but there are real surprises here. For one, the environment is actually recovering by this point, and it is the aging anti-technology *Counterculture*, who have a vested interest in not acknowledging the improvement, who are the forces of darkness. And there is the author's exceptionally subtle power, powered by McNaughton's deep anger, which comes through all the more effectively for being kept under wraps on end. The sexual and physical abuse that's experienced on the street is rarely limited to it, and the work of the death squads—much of it done to harpies—never openly described. Dark, complex and sophisticated indeed. *The Skin Under My Skin* is one of the year's best children's novels. ■

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Entertainment Notes

Edited by Susan Oh

Shared laughter, shared memories

Screenwriter Bernard Slade was recently surrounded by dozens of distinguished friends and guests, including Pamela Wallin and Gordon Pinsent, at a private party in his honour in Toronto. The St. Catharines, Ont.-born creator of the Broadway hit and film *Show Boat*, *Never Say*, as well as the TV series *The Flying Nun* and *The Partridge Family*, was celebrating the release of his memoir *Shared Laughter*. But Slade, who has lived in Los Angeles since 1964, remembers when Toronto wasn't so welcoming. "I was out of place," says the 70-year-old writer, who first moved to the city at 18 in 1948 after a childhood divided between Canada and Britain. "I didn't know it at the time, but the first seven TV plays I wrote were all about loneliness." But, adds Slade, who has two children with his wife of nearly 50 years, Canadian actor Jill Eikenberry, "Almost all of the plays I've written since have been about friendship."

His friendships—with Hollywood legends like Jack Lemmon, Carol Burnett and Dick Van Dyke, as well as *Tatooine* actors Barbara Hulanicki and Charlton



The Partridge Family: one of Slade's TV creations

King—figure handsily in his light-hearted book. It gives a gentle and intimate peek at his childhood, with his eccentric British-born parents, Bessie and Fred, as well as his tales of a rambunctious life in TV and theatre. "It's a collection of the anecdotes I've told all my life," laughs Slade. Stories of young old friends, and likely to win over new ones.

Noteworthy recordings

"It was as if I was hit by a truck, a mortal truck." The vehicle in question was Beethoven's piano sonatas, and the "injury" was Vancouver's Robert Silverman. The award-winning pianist, called "a pianist of importance and high-minded purpose" by *The New York Times*, had already recorded a number of the sonatas—so considerable acclaim—in his impressive career. But in 1996, after he finished a five-year stint as director of the School of

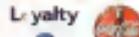
Music at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, he decided he needed a major project to "celebrate my newfound freedom." In October, the Vancouver label Odephus Maegys released Silverman's 10-CD set of the 32 sonatas—the first recording of the works by a Canadian in 25 years, and the first ever by a Canadian-born artist. The 62-year-old's favorite among them? *Opus 103*, one of the last sonatas, which "just reaches me in a way that none of the others do, from the first note to the last."

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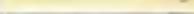
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Allan Fotheringham

Which one will survive?

Richard Gwyn, the veteran Toronto Star columnist, recently made a trip to his native England after a long absence away. Gwyn, who had to buy his way out of the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst when as a youth he decided he didn't want to be an army officer but went to an assembly, can chuckle.

He described, after reading several of London's 10 national dailies, that Toronto and Canadian newspaper readers are giving heretofore quality Argus-like easy here been right. The quality, and the trash—fuelled by Rupert Murdoch, the Daily Digger from Down Under—has been diluted. Even over 10 years ago on what used to be Peter Smith.

The reason for the increased quality and readability of Toronto press is, of course, due to the Paper Wars. The city has now four exclusively British papers—two of them fighting for the national market. It's nonsense, naturally. New York, with three times the population of Toronto, is now down to three papers.

Toronto cannot live with four, but it's fun for the reader—while it continues. (I ban scribbles, as can be imagined, operates with a clear conflict of interest in this competition, being a writer for one of the four.)

The Paper Wars have been fought by Lord Almon, Conrad Black, the Don Quixote of magnates who wishes to rule and command Canada while living abroad, a most wonderful concept. If he harbours of a national paper—a very good paper—over 10 years ago set off a duel that will end, as always, with one death.

There is, you are (my parenthetical) the paper-of-choice, *The Globe and Mail*, finally known as the Mac and Pal, or the Grape and Pal, finally known as the National Post, finally known as the National Post. The one thing that is known is that any Toronto businessperson who tries to read both papers will not get to work until 11 a.m.

The reason readers are served better, as Gwyn knows, is because the *Post* has made the *Globe* a better paper, shaken out of its stupor attitude. And the *Post* is trying, knowing that it has become a threat.

There is *The Avenue Star*, the longer circulation in the honky-tonk business section (but it is not for ads, looking for bargain). It no longer has Pierre Bernier or Ron Haggart as "must-read" columnists, save for those readers who love the language and have Dalton Camp, the hot cypher mill. It is going sideways



In some trouble in the tabloid *Toronto Sun*, with its double-bordered daily Page 3 girl. It has lost its hear features, *Christie Blanchford*, to the *Post*, who writes longer than a Florida court judgment and discusses women by laying out in every column every single personal emotion she can confess. Another prominent columnist (sheer) has had it.

The *Sun* has a dreadful problem with an absentee landlord, Quebec, with armchair executives running the paper (daring to fire Montreal on an irregular basis), and morale is in the Dumper Bean Malady, appeared a month ago to head a search committee for a new successor to CEO Paul Godfrey, can't seem to find one.

And so we have the *Globe* and the *Post*, both losing money because they are spending so much money fighting each other. In the new circulation war, the *Globe* gained no circulation, some 16 per cent higher than the *Post*, the *Post* passing out that it was the fastest-growing paper in Canada.

More pertinent to those of us keeping our heads down in the trenches is the absence of corporate owner BCE, which is about to take over CTV, will control the *Globe* (and Asper's CanWest empire) now owns 50 per cent of the Post—Canada, while wanting to dictate Canadian future, now no longer owns its own all of it.

The question, naturally, is whether good-Liberal Lucy and her smart son will want to continue the Black-inspired Post Style of making the *Post* into a propaganda machine on its front page and elsewhere than a sole dispenser of news. Id that to end, but the bus becomes a traffic menace.

Neither BCE, nor Lucy, one suggests, will shirk from their on-call duties while chasing the same advertising dollar. Just as Canada is too small to support two national airlines, it is (i.e., the Toronto advertising market) too small to support two national papers.

All I know is that in two-three years there will once again be just one national newspaper, one of the doofuses having survived. Most likely the *Post* will revert to a first national Sunday newspaper like the *Sunday Times* of London—badly adrift—or go back to its mon as a daily financial paper, as the *Wall Street Journal*.

The *Globe* will survive, supreme again. I am, as is obvious, completely objective.

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